

JANUARY 2003

Thurs 2

A British women and her son have been killed in a car crash on holiday in South Africa. Jane Hertz, 37, and nine – year – old Ben from Manchester died when a ‘local enforcement officer’ ran a red light.

Her husband, Adam 38, and their other son Michael 12, were injured in the crash between Simonstown and Fish Hoek. The driver has been charged. – **The Sun page 19** –

Sat 4

At the culmination of negotiations, that started in 1997, the concerns of the developed world with obesity are to be tackled by a plant that has been known to the Sans people of southern Africa for many years.

Throughout the Kalahari desert region, that encompasses parts of South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, the Hoodia from the Asclepiadaceae family plant, the Sans people have been able to suppress their feelings of hunger for many days.

With the help of a South Africa based solicitor, R Chennels, and the work of the Pretoria based Council for Scientific and Industrial Research who identified the relevant bio active compound and a Cambridge company hope untold opportunities will descend on the estimated 10, 000 scattered community.

Already clinically tested P57 – Phytopharm’s marketed name; the 57th product tested is expected to reduce intake by 2,000 calories per day. After further trials, overseen by the US company Pfizer who paid Phytopharm \$32m for the right to develop the drug. Prescription sales are expected in 2007.

With an undisclosed amount of new income into the dwindling nation expectations cannot be higher. It is thought that the windfall will be used to educate and train future leaders of the community, spending on youth orientated projects, growing plantations of the Hoodia plant and learning of any other scientific properties it may have.

Tues 7

Following a number of arrests by the police, who considered that the victims used excessive force to stop a crime, police, legal experts and the nations media outlets have gone into overdrive and answer the question when is a self defence killing justified?

With 21, 000 murders and 55, 000 rapes throughout the country in 2002, these recent cases; a couple near Soweto facing murder charges for killing an intruder who tried to

rape the woman; a 16 year old boy who beat a man to death after the family farm near Pretoria was attacked are only two cases that have been commented on in the letters pages or on the talk shows.

Law lecturer K Hopkins, of Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg said that the law allowed a victim to use 'whatever force was necessary to ward off the attack.' The question was is that just one thrust of say, a knife, or multiple strikes. – GDN page 12, C 3 –

Sat 11

In a worrying statement, for the countries white farmers, the labour minister, M Mladlana, has indicated that the land seizure policy of Mr Mugabe was the way forward for the government.

Calling the comments 'chilling' the land affairs spokesman for the opposition's Democratic Alliance said that with the ongoing human rights abuses and unconstitutional way the white farmland was obtained "this hardly sounds the example South Africa should be following."

Although only 7% of land earmarked for redistribution has changed hands the president that any change over would be cautiously considered. In fact there were ongoing plans between white farmers in the Cape who were actively involved in a programme, through Agri – WesCape, which was only waiting for Pretoria's response. – GDN page 19, C 1 –

Sun 12

Upon hearing that he had been cast as Nelson Mandela in a film of the former South African leader's life M Freeman said "I am honoured, and completely terrified that I won't live up to the job representing this great man. – Quote of the Week, IOS page 21 –

Sat 18

A star studded concert near Cape Town to promote the fight against Aids, due to be hosted by Nelson Mandela and broadcast around the globe, was called off yesterday after an unnamed sponsor withdrew.

The 2/2 concert on Robben Island, where Mr Mandela was jailed, had Bono, Macy Gray and Elton John in its lineup. – GDN page19, C 1 –

Mon 20

Well known that much of southern Africa is suffering from drought and the people are on the verge of starvation. What is not so well known is that the response of the international community is better than earlier calls for aid have been. In the current crisis the United Nations World Food Programme has received more than \$25m. This is 62% of the agency target. Such a response has been down played by official's for fear that international complacency will set in and slow down donations.

To take on example, In Cuando Cubango province in Angola efforts to take aid to Mutungo settlement camp in Mavinga the journey, of only 29 miles, from the airstrip takes 10 hours. To aid, 58 tones of maize flour, involves recently imported vehicles. Within the last seven days 22 ton and six wheeled Samil trucks are being used. The ex military trucks, privately owned, by Emmer Log and paid for by Britain's Department of International Development, will greatly assist the ongoing feeding programme.

It is envisaged that the feeding station will require 110, 000 tones of supplies over the next three years.

Tues 21

Cape Town, with a thriving gay and lesbian population, has been shocked by the murder of eight men in a massage parlour in the city. Sizzlers, located in the Sea Point area, an area well known for its nightlife and drug trade was staffed by English speaking Afrikaners who had come to Cape Town looking for a job and drifted into crime.

Most of the victims, six who died at the scene, had been shot through the back of the head. Police were unsure whether the crime was a hate crime or it was related to organised crime.

Wed 29

News report, according to reports Chief M Buthelezie, at the time of the report chief minister in Natal province and 13 other members of the Inkatha Freedom Party have taken a similar path. The coming court case will delay the final report, which by rights should draw to an end one of the most harrowing episodes of the struggle against apartheid. – **World Service, R4 5am** –

Just as former president FW de Klerk used the legal process to delay the publication of the interim report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report (qv) so has another 'notable.'

Fri 31

Knowing a thing or two about the actions of racists Nelson Mandela, who led the campaign against his countries racist policies, has voiced his concerns about the impending actions of the US and British leaders in Iraq. The 'world statesman', if it comes, sees the looming war, as being chiefly about who controls the vast amounts of oil beneath the ground in Iraq. Calling Mr Blair the "foreign minister of the United States" he no longer believes he is the prime minister of Britain.

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Tues 4

Following on? from the criticism of impending war, from Nelson Mandela (qv) the present South African president, Thabo Mbeki, has decided to send a delegation to Iraq to try and avert war.

The mission, his second since 11/02, will be led by deputy foreign minister A Pahad who this time will urge Saddam Hussein to reveal, in exchange for knowledge of so called weapons of mass destruction, that his position of president will be assured. There will be no move to remove him from power by force from the forces of the United States or Britain.

Wed 5

With South Africa about to host the Cricket World Cup the decision to have some of the matches played in Zimbabwe is very controversial at this moment in time.

The problems for A Bacher (qv) the man who fought for the International Cricket Council to locate the 2003 competition around the country is how far does he push for the status quo to remain or, as now the executive director of the competition, does he allow the change of venue; the deduction of points from England which in some eyes will be seen as devaluing the sport. Or does he admit that 'all is not right in Africa' having taken into account the breakdown of security in Harare?

After all the choice of locating the world cup in modern and forward looking Africa would be devalued if a venue change was necessary.

Fri 7

Following on from the 2002 exhibition of Nelson Mandela 's exhibition of his artistic challenge (qv 31/8) there is to be another one. However this time the former state president has taken instruction from the Cape Town based Varenke Paschke.

As before the line drawings, shaded with coloured blocks will go on sale, at between \$2,600 and \$3,000, in aid of his children 's charity

One year on from the end of the Angolan civil war life in the cities is still one of comparisons, from the 'street boy' who, high on the fumes of a petrol soaked rag, ekes an existence from the piles of rubbish that litter the streets. On the other hand are the official that work for the state oil company, Sonagol, and are rumored to be making financial benefits at the expense of their poorer Angolans.

Life expectancy in 2002 45. In 1999 2.78% of the adult population were infected with the HIV/Aids. Infant mortality 191.66/per 1,000 live births. Subsistence agricultural involves 85% of the population. Average income \$240 per year. Since 1975 1.5million people have been killed by civil war. About 2 million people face starvation.

Exports \$7bn in 2001; include diamonds, minerals, coffee, cotton, fish, timber and oil. Only 2.81% of land is used for farming, even though 85% worked in agriculture. In 2001 the GDP was \$13,3bn. Growth for 2002 reached 10% making it one of the world's fastest growing economies. In 1999 military expenditure accounted for 22% of GDP.

With all the interested parties, in the ongoing row over where England should play two world cup matches (qv 6/2), it is now up to the South African legal system to deliver the final decision. It is expected that the veteran anti apartheid activist and lawyer Albi Sachs will play a prominent role in the decision.

Sat 8

With the court ruling that the English and Wales Cricket squad must play in Zimbabwe energies are now focused on the cricket World Cup; the first ever to be played on the African continent.

The competition involves 14 nations who will be involved in 54 matches in 15 venues spread throughout three countries. Crowds are expected to reach 800,000. Also to be considered is a television audience of 1.2 billion. Spending on organisation has reached R500m. The organisers hope to recoup R300m. This will be spent on supporting the cricket infrastructure where it is most needed.

Sat 15

As thousands marched in Cape Town, calling on president Mbeki to implement more fully the governments programme, there was little indication that their demands would be met.

During his annual address at the opening of the parliamentary year, which lasted a total of 60 minuets, only one paragraph; "we will continue to focus on the treatment of sexually transmitted infections ... we will continue to implement the governments comprehensive strategy on HIV and Aids, relating to all elements of this strategy, " was specifically related to a disease that affects 4.7m people in South Africa.

Whilst Nelson Mandela endorsed the Treatment Action Concern sponsored protest for the wider provision of anti retroviral drugs, by allowing his image to appear in "HIV Positive" written across T-shirts, he stayed away from the protest.

Sun 16

With the United Nations mandate in Angola due to end in the near future there is evidence of continued fighting in the distant province of Cabinda. Well to the north of the capital Luanda, and separated from the other 18 provinces by the mouth of the River Congo the army is fighting Flec, a group of separatists, who are demanding autonomy for the region.

Production of oil, in 2002, was less than 1 million barrels a day. In 2000 oil earned \$6.9bn, which is 90% of Angola's budget. Output is set to rise to 1.4m by 2004. A US National Intelligence Council report has predicted that by 2015 a quarter of US oil imports will come from Africa. There is some hope that further oil deposits under the Angolan landmass – previously unexplored for obvious reasons from 1975.

Tues 18

Langa township in South Africa's Western Province, one of South Africa's oldest planned townships, is thanks to the Cricket World Cup the site of a recently refurbished cricket pitch and pavilion and has been the venue for a warm up match between minnows Holland and Western Province.

To upgrade the ground, home to the longest running black cricket side in Cape Town and the only black club in the provincial premier league, has benefited to the tune of R70,000. This was used to improve the pitch and outfield. To Ali Bacher, the chief executive of the organising committee and a former notable force in the United Cricket Board, this is but the first step in providing 50 new grass ovals in deprived areas to help the development of the game in deprived areas of the country.

To this extent there has been some success; Thami Tsotkile a local boy, who is rated by some as the most promising wicket keeper in the country, is seen in the same light as existing 'keeper M Boucher.

Wed 19

Plans are well advanced, despite a 2002 warning from Nelson Mandela not to entice medical workers to Britain, for NHS trusts to import medical staff from South Africa. The difference this time that those sought would come from the private rather than the public sector.

The contract details that the private companies Netcare will supply 40 – 50 new staff, in the case of Southport and Formby NHS Trust, for a period of 6 weeks. Then a new team will be sent out on a rotational basis. The contract stipulates that workers may not work in Britain's health service for a period of 2 years. Netcare has 18,000 employees who run 45 hospitals not only in South Africa but also throughout the region. Their turnover is put at three hundred and seventy million pounds.

Ultimately the Department of Health has given trusts £2m to clear a backlog of eleven thousand routine operations; cataracts and hip replacements. It can be seen that while the South African based medics do not leave their countries health service they do gain valuable experience.

According to a report, from the UN, criminal gangs from countries like Angola, Mozambique, Senegal, Kenya and other African countries, are using the streets of the countries largest cities to pick up those that have been drawn to the city life and force them to work in the sex trade.

The evidence, gathered in 2002, shows that the regions hunger crisis was one element for the targeting of children. Some of those trapped in the crime cycle were known to have been sold by their own parents into the hope of a better life for them. On the other hand South Africa's apartheid years, where little attention was paid to the abuse of children by the authorities are partly to blame. At this time investigators found little administrative measures, a social service framework, in place to deal with the growing problem.

Thurs 20

Under legislation, passed by parliament in Cape Town, under the Merchandise Amendment Act, sponsors of events rule. Specifically designed to help the sponsors of the cricket world cup the act is seen by those in authority as a means to an end to attract other high profile events to the country.

In the case of cricket, the International Cricket Council gave the commercial rights to the Global Cricket Corporation, for a fee of \$500m. They in turn signed lucrative sponsorship deals with companies such as South African Airways, Pepsi, Honda and LG Electronics. To ensure the fullest of exposure for their products and services measures had to be taken.

To take the drinks franchise as an example. There are people employed at the cricket venues; 'drinks police' ensure that rival products, such as Coca-Cola, are banned. People seen consuming such are ejected from the ground.

Claims are being made that the San people of Botswana have been evicted from their traditional lands so that mineral prospectors can survey the land for deposits that are commercially extractable.

Survival International, based in London, says that elements of these nomadic people have been moved on from the Kalahari game reserve for purely financial reasons. This is so the Kalahari Diamond Company, with \$2m of World Bank funds, can fly a surveillance plane over the area. The company is looking for deposits of kimberlite. To find such deposits of this volcanic rock would indicate the presence of the precious stone.

Despite the carping, South Africa has begun to beat poverty and Aids. We are on track despite centuries of colonial domination and decades of institutional racism, and about to

come out of the years of degradation endured under the years of apartheid and its aftermath. so says Pretoria's ambassador to London Lindiwe Mbuze.

A human science research council backs UN Aids report shows falling levels of HIV infection. Those aged 15 to 19 year old 's with no active sex life had risen 10% from 1998 to 2002. Condom use; same criteria 20, 49%. In the next age range 20 – 24 years the take up had risen from 8 – 47%. The belief, widely quoted that HIV could be cured by the taking of a virgin was only 2% and not the 23 – 3% claimed* . There is still a shortfall in the number of 27, 000 registered medical practitioners in South Africa – 2, 000 – who are trained in the providing care for people with HIV/Aids. *authors note; believed to refer to the BBC 's Correspondent, 15.10.02, see SA Tape 59

As to other post 1995 improvements fridge ownership has risen from 48% – 61%. The provision of electrical hotplates in rural homes is up 360% Real growth on public spending will rise 4.7% for the next 3 years. Cabinet has agreed free electricity for the acknowledged poor. In this time frame 10 million people have access to clean water.

In the gold mining industry, an industry dominated by men, the recent changes in the constitution, in 1997, have seen the industry opened to women. As of now there are 19 fully qualified females working in the industry. Only one, Abe de Villiers who works for the East Rand Proprietary Mine just outside Johannesburg, is qualified to work underground. Working 1.6km below the surface Ms Villiers is responsible for setting the explosive charges to release the ore bearing strata.

On the other hand is Victoria Tyumbu who classed as semi skilled leads a team who shovels ore into bags for processing. Earning less than she would as maid her and her like may take a generation to reach the heights of here white colleague. This will be due to the lack of physical ability and the limited education facilities available under the Bantu education system offered under the apartheid system – **G2 page 8/9** –

Fri 21

The transition of the 'defeated' Unita rebel army into a political party almost 12 months after the death of Jonas Savimbi has not gone smoothly, if the evidence from Matungo settlement camp in Cuanbo Cuambo province is anything to go by. Many of the 27, 000 inside the camp feel abandoned and unloved by those in authority.

Government entreaties to former combatants to return to their families are treated with contempt by some. Veterans of the 27 year long conflict feel that after this length of time families will be dispersed and the village may not want them back, they may face violence and contempt.

The leaders of Unita, who are working with the government in Luanda are, according to analysts, struggling to work efficiently as a political party. Much could be settled, within the next six months, at the party's congress where a new leader is to be chosen. The contest will be a straight fight between A Chivukuvuka and I Samukuva.

Sat 21

Hailed as a hero, for declaring his HIV – positive status, the renowned playwright G Kenti joins other ‘notables’ who are not afraid to declare their determination to continue with their lives despite the condition.

Namibia’s president, Sam Nujama, will abide by his party Swapo’s ruling not to seek a forth term in 2005, the party said yesterday. Some traditional leaders want Mr Nujama, 73, to stay on. – GDN page 16, C 8 -

MARCH 2003

Tues 5

To further 'muddy the water' in the ongoing debate about the amount of force a victim of crime can use in their defence (qv 7/1) a rape victim has been charged with murder.

The 34 year old woman was attacked by three men, on 1/3, in the Orange Grove district of Johannesburg. The deed done, the men left and later the women went in search of her attackers. Spotting one, there was a confrontation during which he was stabbed a number of times and died. The women then went home. Police arrested her after a tip off. During a magistrates court appearance she was formally charged with murder and released on bail to appear in court within the next six weeks.

According to Interpol there were 21,683 murders in the country during 2000. This was 10 times more than the per capita rate in the USA.

Thurs 6

A cyclone of up to 105mph and heavy rains have displaced 23, 000 people in southern Mozambique, the authorities said. The governor of Inhambane province said roads were blocked to most of the areas affected in his region, and telephone lines were down. – *Reuters* –

Sat 8

A detail, from the programme Mandela The Living Legend, see SA Tape 59, has highlighted the work of the renowned film director Lord Richard Attenborough; see the film Cry Freedom has brought his work for the Unicef, the United Nations children 's charity into question.

The action centers round a proposal, from the noble lord, that would see much needed cash flowing into the former South African president children 's charity from the Nestle's company. At this time the Swiss company is trying to rebuild its image internationally, after a disastrous campaign to try and persuade third world mothers to buy one of its products, powered baby milk, rather than breast feed their newborn babies.

One of the greatest campaigners against Nestle's has been the charity is One World Action. Richard Attenborough is a patron of this charity.

As the cyclone, named Japhet affecting Mozambique (qv 6/3), moves towards Zimbabwe through the central provinces of Sofola and Manica the governor of the coastal province Inhambane, A Aly and his team will have to deal with 23, 000 who are homeless as well as a number of schools in the region. – **The Big Issue page 6, C 1** –

Mon 10

Less than a third of invited African presidents turned up yesterday for a summit intended to advance the continent's rescue plan. Only seven of the expected 23 heads of state were at the opening of meeting of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in Nigeria. – *Reuters* –

Tues 11

Although still professing that there is a medical cause for the HIV/Aids virus the Pretoria government has appointed an American based nutritionist with an alternative explanation. The minister of health has appointed R Giraldo, after consultations during the last few months.

As one of the Aids 'notables' from 2001 (qv 5/4) he stood alone, apart from Professor Duseburg and others, who said the disease was not related to sexual health. Rather it was due to environmental conditions. Now he is claiming that the use of anti retroviral drugs encourages, not limits, the spread of the virus.

Opponents of the appointment have called for the resignation of the minister of health. Further action – the beginning of a campaign of civil disobedience, on 21/3 - has been called by Treatment Action Concern (qv).

Thurs 20

Well recognised that throughout the long negotiations that saw British AeroSpace Systems awarded a multi million pound contract from the military (qv) bribes were paid, now is the time of reckoning. At a sitting of a special commercial court, in Pretoria, a former member of parliament has been found guilty of accepting bribes.

In what will have come as a jolt to the ruling African National Congress the apartheid era hero P Yegoni aged 49 has been jailed for four years. The former chief whip was jailed for accepting a Mercedes vehicle in 1998 that cost him 47% less than the show room price. This was to ensure that the international conglomerate was awarded the £3bn arms deal.

It can be implied, from the judge's comments that the severity of the sentence was in some part due to the accused attempts to diminish the severity of what he had done. He had just wished they, the charges, would go a way. He will appeal.

As South African authorities prepare for the 5/03 trial of 23 members of the Boermag group (qv) on the charge of treason the white supremacist group have been accused of plotting the assassination of Nelson Mandela. A state lawyer confirmed the details after it was broadcast on the SABC.

Fri 21

As if to show that the Aids crisis is not being addressed by the authorities in Pretoria the pressure group Treatment Action Concern (qv) chose an apartheid era milestone venue to draw attention to its latest campaign.

As promised TAC have launched an ongoing campaign of civil disobedience (qv 11/3). By choosing the township of Sharville it could be said that this generation of activists view the evils of Aids and the injustices suffered by blacks, in the 1960's, on an equal footing.

At the police station in the township those inside were confronted by hundreds of activists seeking to lay charges of manslaughter against two members of the cabinet in Pretoria. They accuse those named; Dr M T Msimang and A Erwin the health and the trade and industry ministers respectively, of 16 specific deaths as part of the 600 people a day who die for the want of the appropriate medicines and the blocking of production of the drugs within the country.

Even the finance minister, Trevor Manuel, has come out in favour of the latest health advice to buy strong herbs to boost the immune system. He described the purchase of anti retroviral drugs as a "load of voodoo" and their purchase was a drain on the household finances.

There were similar protests in other large cities. In Cape Town and Durban police were handed dockets naming thousands who had died from the virus. Protestors demanded that they investigate these deaths.

Sat 22

Publishing the final two volumes of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report has brought the question of prosecution of F W de Klerk into the arena of possibility. In a damning words the members of the commission said that the former president had "failed to make full disclosure" when testifying about human rights violations.

Specifically the members of the commission were referring to the state sponsored violence that saw the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches building destroyed in 1988 and the COSATU building in 1987 (qv 24/4). In his initial submission de Klerk indicated that he was unaware of any actions taken by security force members, on orders of the state security council. Subsequently he, as head of the state security council, had knowledge of these events. In the published report his admission is written as an agreed 'form of words' between lawyers working for the former president and the TRC. The original, which should never have seen the light of day, was included as a blanked out page had been slipped into the light of day. Such disclosures could see de Klerk face prosecution for giving misleading testimony in 1996 in an attempt to keep his name clean.

Mon 24

A £400, 000 fund raising appeal for a statue of Nelson Mandela in Trafalgar Square is to be launched today by Wendy Wood, widow of the anti apartheid campaigner Donald Woods, and Lord Attenborough. – GDN page 15, C 8 -

APRIL 2003

Thurs 3

The rule of law is on the point of collapse in Swaziland the International Bar Association said in a report. The group said the Swazi parliament was moribund and the judiciary powerless as a result of government interference. The country was also breaching human rights, jeopardising donor funding and investment. The problems were exacerbated last year when the Government rejected court rulings seeking to curb the powers of King Mswati 111. – *Reuters* –

Mon 14

Zena Mahlangu was 18 when she was abducted and claimed by King Mswati the Third of Swaziland for his 10th wife. Her mother, Lindiwe Dlamini, tells of her fight to get her back.

Soon to take her A levels Zena was lifted from the streets on 9/10/02 by two of the king's messengers on his behalf. Apparently he had taken a shine to her when she went with another girl to the annual ceremony of the reed dance – a rights of passage for 18 year old females – and a chance to mix with others young women.

Unhappy at the moves taken by the mother, charges of abduction against the kings messengers, the kings council threatened the three judges who refused to accede to these threats. All further legal moves have had to be suspended as Ms Mahlangu has moved further into the royal fold by performing traditional rituals that confirm her as the king's fiancée.

Tues 15

News report on the ongoing civil disobedience campaign organised by Treatment Action Campaign (qv 21/3). – *World Service, Radio 4, 4. 45 am* –

The president has offered a one of payment, of £2, 000 to those people; put at 19, 000 who it has been agreed suffered at the hands of the apartheid governments. Campaigners say that the offer is to little and they will reject what is on offer. – *Radio 2 news, 15. 00* –

Wed 16

The R30m payment to the victims of apartheid who appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (qv 15/4) will not be boosted by a one off wealth tax on the business community. The same rule will apply to individuals who thrived from the years of minority rule. Speaking in parliament the president also re confirmed that his 2002 decision (qv 27/11) on support for individuals to sue in the American courts will stand.

One of the largest pension groups in America, the Californian Public Employees Retirement System is to use its influence on GlaxoSmith Kline to review its policy for charging for Aids drugs. The chief executive of Calpers, in a letter to the company, outlined that with the pension fund having a \$760m stake in the drug conglomerate, to dismiss such a plea could lead to serious financial problems for GSK. The pension fund has given the company 3 months in which to come back with the results of their review.

In their defence GSK say that they already have one generic licensing agreement with a company in South Africa. Aspen Pharmacare provides AZT, Combivir and Epivir. There is the option of other deals to be worked out.

Mon 21

Swaziland's King Mswati has told his subjects democracy is unsuitable for them. "Democracy is not good for us because God gave us our own way of doing things," the king told an Easter service. – *Reuters* –

Fri 25

With the end of the fraud trial, that saw the former wife of Nelson Mandela, in the dock, it seems that the political life of Winnie Mandela could be at an end. The details; convicted of 43 counts of fraud and 25 of theft will almost certainly lead to a lengthy term in prison. The maximum allowed in law is 15 years.

From Day 1, on 10/7/2002, the president of the ANC 's women 's league, who the Pretoria magistrate said that the evidence was "overwhelming" and it was "completely improbable" that Madikizela Mandela did not know of the scam. The women, sometimes known as the 'Evita of Africa' will be sentenced to day.

Forthcoming a film from the Ad Astera 'Hands of A Forgotten Hero' the tale of Hamilton Naki and his role in the world's first human heart transplant. This took place at the Groote Schur hospital in Cape Town. The transplant surgeon was Christian Barnard and, being white, made him an instant hero.

The real hero, however, came to work as a gardener at the University of Cape Town in 1940 to work as a gardener. Many years later, as a reward for his time keeping and diligence this black boy, from a village in the Eastern Cape, with the job of assisting in the animal laboratory. By 1967 he was assisting an up and coming surgeon who had just returned from the USA. The self acclaimed 'back room boy' whilst there in the media spotlight and pictures with transplant surgeon Barnard was always in the background – as were all non whites during the apartheid era.

As to the time from the breakthrough to his retirement in 1991 he was allowed to operate and give lectures to medical professors. Now he lives in Langa township on a pension of £70. In 12/02 he was awarded a national honour along with others of 'national importance'. – **G2, page 4/5** –

Sat 26

Convicted of theft and fraud Winnie M Mandela (qv 25/4) has been sentenced to jail for four years. However the magistrate, P Johnson, indicated that she, who has relinquished the title 'mother of the nation,' could be released in eight months. For the rest of her time she would be expected to perform community service.

In a statement, made from the steps of the courthouse, after securing bail as she intends to appeal the sentence, she said, "I will remain a dedicated, committed loyal member of the ANC. I intend to spend my time henceforth to do the work that I started in my early life and to bind my destiny with everyone I share the ideals of a just South Africa."

If the natures of the ordinary South African's views are taken into consideration the nation is divided as to the rights or wrongs of the case. The veteran anti apartheid campaigner Helen Suzman thought the now former MP and head of the ANC 's women 's league should have escaped imprisonment, on the grounds of her previous history.

Her co accused, P Moolan, was also found guilty of using the organisations stationery to fraudulently obtain bank loans in the name of bogus employees and skim money from the loans from a funeral policy that did not exist. He was sent to jail for seven years, two of which were suspended by the court.

Mon 28

Whatever the influences that has been brought to bear on the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline to supply cheaper medicines for those suffering from the Aids virus (qv16/4) prices will fall to an affordable rate.

To take examples of drugs used by many sufferers in sub Saharan Africa the annual cost of Combivir will fall to £206. This price is close to the price of the 'generic' Zidovovudine offered by the Indian company Rambaxy at £167. A second Indian manufacturer, Aurobindo, Laminvudine; 3TC for £128 per anum.

Reaction, from those who campaign of behalf of those that carry the virus said that they welcomed the decision. A spokesman for Oxfam thought that not much would change as the generics are still being provided at a lower price.

Tues 29

Long thought of, by the British, as a glorious episode of they're time as rulers in South Africa details tell a different story. According to a book Zulu Victory by R Lock and P Quantrell, published by Greenhill events at Rorke's Drift were slightly at odds with what has been publicly acclaimed in the history books and in the cinema.

Well known are the facts that 11 Victoria Crosses were won by troops defending the small garrison against an attack from warriors from the Zulu nation. The book, written by the two retired army officers, with access to untold stories, from the press and

private diaries of those who were there, tell of brutal treatment metered out to wounded fighters who defending the lands of King Cetshwayo.

According to the testimony, used in the book, the numbers of dead and prisoners were under reported. History recorded that only 351 Zulu's died. Sources revealed in 1914; 35 years after the event that 875 were killed. It is possible that wounded prisoners were executed as revenge for an earlier attack on the British garrison Isandhlwana, where 1,000 troops were massacred

Wed 30

The campaign of civil disobedience mounted by the Aids pressure group Treatment Action Concern (qv 11/3) has been suspended on the promise of a meeting with the National Aids Council on 17/5. However the pressure group reserve the right to resume their protest depending on the outcome of the meeting.

During the campaign in excess of 100 protestors have been arrested, which have included the laying of culpable homicide charges against the health minister, MT Msimang, and the trade minister, A Evan.

Topics up for discussion, at the National Aids Council, led by the deputy president Jacob Zuma, are the pressure groups demands for the state funding for the provision of anti retroviral drugs. Any agreements reached at this meeting would face urgent consideration by the government and be adopted within three weeks.

Commenting on the GSK price reduction of Aids related drugs (qv 28/4) Treatment Action Concern demanded that the company reduce prices further. This would allow full competition with the companies that produce the cheaper generics.

MAY 2003

Thurs 1

As part of a three man delegation Mr Mbeki will visit Zimbabwe. The purpose of the three; O Obasanjo of Nigeria and B Muluzi of Malawi, will be to test the water on the possibility of president Mugabe standing down as president of the country. By coincidence such an idea was hinted at by Mugabe, now that the land issue had been settled, during a rare television interview on 27/4.

The South African president has decided on such a stance because of the inability of Africa to solve Africa's problem was harming the South African president's long term goal of Africa being able to become a real force in the international world. The continued problems of Zimbabwe's economic meltdown and alleged human rights abuses were harming the development of the New Economic Partnership for African Development.

Fri 2

A bus, transporting members of the Confederation of South African Trade Unions, has crashed on its way to a May Day rally in the Qua Qua region of South Africa. According to a spokesman for Cosatu an unknown number of miners, from Kimberly, were on the bus.

According to the police at the scene, Bethlehem in the Free State, the driver was lost as he took the road that led straight into a nearby reservoir. Despite pulling 10 surveyors from the wreckage it is thought that up to 80 people could be dead. This would be the highest fatality rate in the country's history.

Sat 3

Despite seven years of, alleged, multi racial living members of the white and black communities in Johannesburg still keep to their own suburbs. Generally those living in Parkview, Parkhurst and Sanderton are of a settler nature. The indigenous blacks tend to live in Yeoville, Hillbrow or Brixton.

According to this diarists chief source, who lives in the 'mixed race' suburb of Melville, the two communities are unlikely to become a homogenous community because of past history; the racial thing.

Sun 4

Brazil, which makes cheap generic versions of HIV and Aids drugs, said it wanted to extend cooperation with Mozambique by making anti – retroviral drugs in the African country. – IOS page 5, C4 –

Tues 6

Veteran stalwart of the anti apartheid movement, Walter Sisulu, has died at the age of 90. Leading the tributes his fellow prisoner on Robben Island prisoner, Nelson Mandela, said “Together we shared ideas, forged commitments.”

Born W M U Sisul on May 18 1912 in Engcobo, Transkei. Mr Sisulu moved to Johannesburg in 1928 to take up a series of labouring jobs, before joining the ANC in 1940. With Mandela and Tambo (qv) he founded the ANC Youth League in 1944.

Jailed, along with N Mandela in 1964 for life, only to be freed 26 years later in 1989. Elected as deputy president of the ANC in 1991, a position he held until the multi racial elections in 1994. As Mandela was the public face of Congress Mr Sisulu was always the strategist.

Since apartheid collapsed, the Afrikaners have been a lost and divided race, some of the disaffected have taken up arms – the Boeremag (qv) – to attack elements of this multi racial society. However a new grouping of the ‘lost tribe’ have emerged.

A new grouping, Group of 63, has come to the forefront of the battle to protect their minority rights. These enlightened Boers, still with a hope to have a new nation based round the whites only town of Oceana (qv), will through the new Afrikaners trade union – Solidarity – will use the watchword of Modernity to achieve these goals.

Whilst the ANC government has promised to look favourably on these dreams of a ‘homeland’ but no one has any proof that it plans to let it happen. – G2, page 2/3 –

Wed 7

Trafalgar Square, the hoped for venue of the nine foot bronze statue of Nelson Mandela (qv), has at its first hurdle been ruled out. The artistic advisory committee to Westminster council has ruled that chosen position would not be appropriate, as it would not fit in with the rest of the square which is being revamped. The full council will have the final say on positioning.

Obituary, Walter Ulyate Sisulu 18/5/12 – 6/5/03 tales of the life and times of one of the triumvirate, along with Oliver Tambo who died 4/93; and Nelson Mandela who internationalised the ANC.

Thurs 8

Letters, [1] **J Council, Roseburg Oregon** where better to site a statue of N Mandela than in close proximity to a building, the South African embassy, that for so many years was the focal point of the positive action that one day overthrew this oppressive regime.

[2] **N Roy, Local Authority Action for South Africa** the reasoning behind the refusal, for aesthetic values, of the Mandela statue (qv 7/5) shames the public arts advisory panel and by implication Westminster council. On the deciding panel there was not one person of an ethnic minority – despite those under the

councils care make up 26.7% of the population. Also as a whole London has 40% of its population made up of people from the ethnic minorities.

[3] **De van der Beek, Lacock Wiltshire** there is already a column for a Nelson in Trafalgar Square. Move the hero of the sea battle to the fourth plinth and put Mandela high above 'his square'.

Fri 9

Letter, **K Livingstone; Mayor of London, and 9 MP's** support for the statue (qv 8/5) has been widespread, even from Mandela himself. Westminster city council should take account of the wishes of the people and utilise the chosen site to "honour one of the greatest world statesmen of our age."

Wed 14

Former security guard Luyanda Mboniswa was found guilty in Cape Town of murdering Marike de Klerk, former wife of South Africa's last white president, in 2001* and of aggravated house breaking. He was cleared of rape. He is expected to be sentenced tomorrow. – *Reuters* - * see authors note 6/12 –

Sun 18

Orlando Football stadium, in Soweto, was packed for the state funeral of Walter Sisulu – who was, according to president Mbeki, was the "moral center of the African National Congress's struggle for liberation."

The crowd of thousands also heard Archbishop Tutu, another fighter for the 'moral cause', say that they had "come to celebrate a wonderful life poured out so unselfishly on behalf of others."

At the end of the ceremony Albetina Sisulu, his wife, asked in a statement; read by one of their grandchildren "Walter, what do I do now without you? You for whom I wake up every morning. You for whom I lived."

Tues 20

The 'class action' brought by those who suffered under the apartheid system (qv18/6) has begun in a New York courtroom. Seeking reparations of \$100bn on their behalf lawyer Ed Fagan has named a number of British companies, among the 34 named earlier, who made serious financial gains during the apartheid era.

The financial institutions, based in London, named in the Manhattan courtroom were the banks; Nat West, Barclays and Standard Chartered. Other companies named are J P Morgan, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank Commerzbank, IBM, Shell, ExxonMobil, Novartis Nestle, Anglo American De Beers, Volkswagen, Daimler – Chrysler, IBM and Fujitsu.

There will be no help from the Pretoria government, as earlier indicated by a government minister (qv 27/11), as to do so would harm inward investment at a time

when South Africa needed help from the companies that had been named in the 'class action'.

Thurs 22

With the mantra delay sex, reduce the number of partners, protect from disease, the three year old and ongoing loveLife Aids awareness campaign, is having some effect on South Africa's young people as the government tries to fight the ever increasing number of deaths from the virus.

The strategy of the campaigners is to make the selling point of the campaign as brand aware as any other campaign that sells an idea to anyone, the use of the media friendly adverts, high profile promotions of the idea, in a similar way that a manufacturer, Coca Cola for example, would promote its product to the intended market. Whilst this method is attractive, through roadside hoarding's, the direct message has attracted criticism from the countries advertising authority.

The loveLife campaign is focused on 13 to 17 year old 's and is financed by foundations that have been set up by Bill Gates and Henry Kaizer. Research has shown that of those targeted 78% say that the campaign has caused them to use protection when having sex.

Book Loot by Nardine Gordimer, £15, is a collection of short stories; that some might say were autobiographical. During an interview at home in Johannesburg there was a hint that a 'ghost writer' was working in such a tome.

Any forthcoming book about the Nobel laureate's long, she is approaching 80, and eventful life could come from the hand of R S Roberts a Jamaican born lawyer, to whom letters and documents have been passed.

Cartoon, "OK David. You lay off the jokes about my shirt and I won't mention your hair." greetings between Nelson Mandela and David Beckham as the former president agrees with England's captain. - **Daily Star** -

Fri 23

An argument over the parentage of H Sindane has divided the country across racial divide. In one version the child was abducted by the family of the domestic working for Jan and Sara Botha. The boy went missing, according to the couple, in 1992 from their home in Pretoria.

An alternative version was offered to readers of the Sowetan newspaper. According to Tozi Ben the boy was the result of a liaison between her cousin R Mampiga and a white shop owner. He was passed to the Sindane's when Ms Tozi was unable to care for him any more.

Before results of DNA tests Happy has been moved to a secure place half way between Tweefontain, where he revealed himself to the police on 18/5; and his alleged family home.

Sat 24

Concerns of the South African press, over the last seven days, have revolved round two issues football and the state funeral of W Sisulu (qv).

Despite defeat, at the hands of an England team, captained by David Beckham, the written media were conscious of Pretoria's endeavors to host the 2010 World Cup competition. To do so Fifa, the final authority on such matters, would – according to the Daily News would restore “national pride,” to a country that lost out Germany in 2006. A second refusal, by the world 's governing body would be “too ghastly to contemplate.”

As the meeting of a British football icon, David Beckham, and one on the world stage Nelson Mandela the East London Daily Dispatch praised the England captains new 'Afro' hairstyle. The papers editorial posed the question was the style adopted “in honour of his visit to the continent and meeting the former president.” As to Mr Mandela's perceived status as a role model on the world stage who will follow him? “Who is there to take up the torch of universality with the same charisma?”

Writing in the Johannesburg Business Day Xolela Mangcu, the executive director of the Steve Biko Foundation on the atmosphere at the state funeral of the apartheid veteran W Sisulu; “Oh the glory of the [was] nation never more resplendent.” However he was most concerned that “there are virtually no white people in this stadium, save for the smattering of white journalists, diplomats and white visitors.

Wed 28

Three right wing Afrikaners who plotted to blow up a dam in central South Africa in March last year were sentenced to between five and eight years in prison for sabotage yesterday – **AP** –

Sat 31

The World Food Programme [WFP] in Swaziland was unable to distribute a full food basket to each of its 152, 000 beneficiaries in April and May. In its latest situation report on the regional food crisis, WFP noted that “Swaziland has experienced pipeline problems during April and May and as a result, most implementing partners [who distribute on behalf of WPF] were only supplied with cereals in May. There were only 570 tonnes of [maize] cereals available for May distribution to beneficiaries – enough to cover just 31 percent of monthly requirements – a shortfall of 1, 250 tonnes. In addition, vegetable oil is not in stock and is only due to arrive in June.

Swaziland is among six southern African countries experiencing food shortages due to drought and HIV/Aids. – **The Big Issue, News from around the world, page 6** –

JUNE 2003

Mon 2

Luyanda Mboniswa, 22, a security guard; has been sentenced to two life terms plus three years in jail for the December 2001 murder and robbery of Marike de Klerk, ex wife of former South African President F W de Klerk, at here seafront apartment; in Cape Town. – **Time Magazine, Notebook, 26/5** –

Tues 17

With the Americans fearful about the continuation of an uninterrupted oil supply from the volatile Middle East new sources are being sought. One of their chief targets is Angola. Already a producer of 900, 000 barrels a day according to 2002 data, it is hoped that within the next 10 years production will have reached 1m/day. Already a 'done deal' is the construction, by a US contractor, is the construction of a oil refinery in Lobito harbour

Already known are the shady dealings, uncovered in 2002, (qv 27/2), between oil companies, politicians and Sonangol. Aid agencies, who say the majority of Angolans are living on \$1/day, are unconvinced that influx of wealth, forecast at \$50bn / £30bn over the next 10 years will filter down to those that really need it.

Thurs 19

The international engineering company Lahmeyer of Germany has been convicted of bribing the former chief executive of the Lesotho highlands water project, Masupha Sole, who was jailed for 15 years last year (qv 5/6) for taking bribes.

In October*, the Canadian company Acres International was convicted in the first of a continuing series of corruption trials in the southern African state. – **GDN page 13, C 8** –
* authors note the 29th

Tues 24

The much delayed trial of six members, there will be eventually twenty two, of the Boermag went on trial yesterday on charges of trying to overthrow the government. Those on trial, at this time, face 42 charges in total. These include high treason, murder terrorism and the illegal possession of weapons.

The original trial date had to be abandoned because of a dispute over the legal representation of some of the right wing defendants. Thirteen of the accused challenged the jurisdiction of the court, while two elected to plead at a later state. One refused to plead and the court entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

In his opening remarks council for the defence, P Kruger, said that his clients did not recognise the court. The lawyer also stated that the constitution was not valid because white voters were not consulted before it was approved.

Sat 28

A battle for compensation against British company Cape PLC* by thousands of South African miners with asbestos related disease was settled for £7.5m at the high court in London. – GDN page 6, C 8 – * authors note, see 10/02

Mon 30

The ongoing concern about the ability of BAE Systems (qv) to supply Hawk training jets to the South African military now has been shown to involve the British tax payer will not go away.

As in all overseas contracts the government of the day guarantees payment to the buyer; through the Export Credit Guarantee Department. In this instance the underwritten amount was £1.5bn. In parliament the minister responsible, told in a written answer, that all procedures were followed and no irregularities were detected.

The company is keeping details of the identity of the agent, close to the Pretoria administration, secret. This is the person who is entitled to commission of £160m. A Feinstein an ANC member of parliament, – who lost his seat because of his protests over the Hawk contract, calls on both governments to give full details of the relevant issues.

The unseated member of parliament is concerned that unless there is a policy of ‘full disclosure’ then there will be a continued epidemic, of what the report by the Heath Commission in 2001 (qv 17/11) called “extremely undesirable” incidents.

JULY 2003

Thurs 10

During a visit to the Pretoria, on his tour of the African continent, President Bush and his opposite number, had talks on the situation across Mr Mbeki's northern border. The United States president called Mr Mbeki an "honest broker" in his attempt to try and resolve the political and economic crisis facing Zimbabwe.

Outside the US embassy, in Pretoria, a group of about 100 supporters of the Zimbabwe's Movement for Democratic Change had gathered. Initially their purpose was to hand in a letter of support for the tough stance the Americans were taking. However the mood changed considerably after the release of the presidents comments. Several members of the crowd expressed bitter disappointment. Back in Harare an MDC spokesman put a brave face on and praised the two presidents for their "sense of urgency".

Fri 11

"Mr Bush did not come to change South Africa. He came to facilitate new and constructive talks." – **Herald, Port Elizabeth** –

"The South African government is sensible to insist on quiet diplomacy with Mr Mugabe, who has never shown any inclination to accept firm council from outside." However the writer warned, "quiet diplomacy must not lapse into silent assent" for Mr Mugabe's regime. – **P Graham and T Reeler Business Day** –

"To Mr Mbeki Mr Mugabe was the gibbering epitome of all that lay behind his own scintillating master plan, Nepad: the New Partnership for African Destruction. Mr Mbeki missed no opportunity to be photographed or televised with his arms draped admiringly around the Mugabe shoulders." – **R Kirby, Mail and Guardian** –

Sat 12

A 'blue plaque' has been unveiled at the one time London home of two of the most eminent anti apartheid activists. Outside 13 Lyme Street, Camden, NW1, hundreds were gathered to hear Nelson Mandela pay tribute to Ruth First and her partner Joe Slovo (qv) who lived in the house from 1966 to 1978.

Also at the unveiling ceremony to hear the former South African president laud her parents with the words "It is a great honour to appear on this occasion because we are honouring two eminent South Africans who as young people, decided to join forces against those who suppressed millions of people in our country," was Gillian Slovo one of the couples three daughters.

Earlier* the British prime minister was once again criticised, along with his US counterpart, for the attack on Iraq when they both attended a conference in London. * authors note, see the Daily Mirror 11/7?

Sun 13

Letter, **E Wilmshurst, Action for South Africa, London N1**, whilst full of praise for the commitment the US president promised - \$1bn - to the Global Fund to Fight Aids TB and Malaria there were concerns that the American promise would only be made good only on the condition of matched cash from other international donors.

There is little time until, 16/7 in Paris, for the British prime minister along with his European colleagues, to come together and match this substantial amount. The fate of 30 million Africans who suffer from the HIV/Aids virus is at stake.

Mon 14

The 'class action' brought by those who suffered under the apartheid regime (qv 18/6) are, as is known, basing their claim on the Alien Tort Claims Act of 1789. According to Geoff Rodoreda in the 7/03 issue of New African the relevant statute says; the Act "essentially allows companies trading in the US to be sued for internationally recognised human rights violations anywhere in the world".

As to a successful ATC claim the global effect, according to an author in the Economist; 21/7, "could be devastating to international business particularly in emerging markets." Even if the US supreme court ultimately limits this use of the 1789 legislation the uncertainty would affect many business decisions in the meantime".

Tues 15

Evidence has emerged that a government sponsored report from the department's of health and finance, suppressed since 2/03, points a way forward to the saving of many lives of those suffering from the Aids/HIV virus.

The contentious report, leaked by the pressure group Treatment Action Concern, to the Cape Times newspaper, indicates that the lives of 1.7m South Africans could be saved by the year 2010 if it provided Aids drugs immediately. The cost, based on the prices of the available generic drugs would cost between £1.37bn to £1.74bn. This spending would save 733, 000 lives if half the number of those in need were treated immediately

The government has stalled on implementation because of the 'popular' scientific belief that the virus will not be cured by the use of retroviral medicines.

In Paris at the annual conference of the International Aids Society, 24 hours before European 'notables' gather to consider the financing of the Global Fund (qv 13/7), the delegates heard a moving endorsement of the Fund from Nelson Mandela. So strongly does the former president support the ideals of the fund that he pledged that his Foundation would be campaigning, targeting large companies, for their financial support.

Wed 16

After an appearance before a magistrate, in the town of Bronkhorstspuit, Harry Sindane, the boy born across the racial divide (qv 23/5), is still no nearer knowing who his birth parents are. The police however are convinced that he was not kidnapped from white parents and brought up in a black township.

Labeled as a confused 16 year old, who contradicted himself several times under questioning by reporters, officials cannot confirm his parentage, through DNA sampling, What they do say is that the couple from Pretoria, Jan and Sara Both, – are not related to him. Until they find a relative of R Mziyaye the maid who brought the child up they cannot quell the boys curiosity. It is said that there is a living, in Zimbabwe, a son, who is still to be traced.

Fri 18

Wham, what happens after Mandela, as the great man reaches his 85th birthday is on the mind of many of the leading politicians in the country. Reflecting on a post Mandela time the chairman of the opposition Democratic Alliance, J Feremane, says “it will be like a dark cloud falling, a strain on our fledgling democracy.”

A more politically aware analysis, by R Calland, indicates that “although he is the personification of our unification and reconciliation,” after he is gone “political discourse is likely to sharpen because factions in the ANC want to redress what they see as its excessive emphasis on reconciliation at the extent of improving the lot of the blacks.”

Within the existing administration M Buthelezie, a cabinet minister feels “very worried, if we are not careful we are going to have a one party state.” Coming from the leader of the IFP, who during the struggle for independence ran the province of Natal on such lines, suggests reopening the faction fighting (qv) prevalent between the to political parties in the 1990’s.

However the veteran anti apartheid campaigner and author, of Beyond the Miracle, a look at post apartheid SA, states “to portray Mandela as the last pillar, protecting us from catastrophe is absurd.. The constitution is bedded down and we have a constitutional court not prone to giving political judgments.

Sat 19

Admittedly not the largest or longest structure the new Nelson Mandela Bridge in Johannesburg is seen as a symbol of the emergence of the city from its decades of a crime ridden and decaying centre of population.

Spanning a railway line the 930 foot cable stayed structure costing £6.7m; built at the behest of the Johannesburg Development Agency by a Danish company with the lighting designed by the French, the soon to be opened structure divides the business academic suburb of Braamfontein from the theatres and museums of Newton.

As to the view of the city being a crime ridden one the situation is changing. Located in the impressive structure, on the sixth floor, of the Carlton Centre the commercial Business against Crime grouping has offices.

From here, already installed across the city, are 200 CCT cameras that have cut the rate of crime by 80%. With the ability to track suspects across the city, the 160 additional 'spy in the sky' cameras, to be introduced by the end of 12/03, are expected to make the city an even safer place.

The Nelson Mandela Bridge, to be opened within 24 hours by the man himself, has 2 lanes for traffic and two for pedestrians.

Sun 20

From across southern Africa came 'notables' and foreign dignitaries to attend the birthday banquet of Nelson Mandela. Principally they were there to listen to the inaugural Nelson Mandela lecture.

Given by Bill Clinton the former American president praised the former prison inmate as a "gift to humanity." The theme of speech was a three step plan to raise Africa out of its cycle of poverty and relieving foreign debt, increasing trade and helping with wealth creation throughout the continent.

On a more personal note, for Mr Mandela one of his fellow Rivoena trialists was not able to attend the Johannesburg gathering. Raymond Mhlaba has recently suffered a stroke. Closer to home, for the former president, his daughter in law Zondi Mandela aged 46 from his marriage to E Ntoko was buried in Soweto after her death from pneumonia.

Thurs 24

"We are not expected to be moral eunuchs. As long ago as 1969, the director – general of the day, Sir Hugh Greene, said that he did not believe the BBC had a duty to be even handed between right and wrong; and he specifically mentioned the issue of apartheid in South Africa. At the time there were plenty of people in Britain who supported the South African government and its policies, and the BBC were always coming under attack for its 'bias' against the apartheid regime. .. the Greene doctrine still applies: if something is clearly wrong .. we shouldn't behave as though it deserves equal time and equal respect." – extract; page 91 News From No Man's Land Reporting the World, published by PAN at £7. 99 -

Wed 30

According to a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit the monthly rent on a 2 bedroom flat is £419. 18. Dinner for 2 would cost £22. 90. The running costs of a car for 12 months £890. 30. Childcare for 1 hour £2. 29. The cost of a litre of milk 39p.

In comparison London prices are £1114. 56, £76. 27, £1217. 23, 6. 65 0. 54p respectively -- graphic GDN page 11 -

AUGUST 2003

Sun 3

News item, at the opening of an Aids conference in the South African city of Durban, the city with the largest number of Aids cases, the minister of health once again made light of the benefits of those suffering from HIV with drugs - **Radio 2 6pm** –

Mon 4

The agreed 'best practice' anti retroviral drug Neverapine has been banned from use by the Pretoria authorities, as a temporary measure. The medical control council has withdrawn the license from the German company Boehringer Ingelheim for ninety days. Approved use will only be granted if the company can provide evidence that the Ugandan trials of Neverapine were conducted in an approved manor.

As to the suspended campaign of civil disobedience, by the campaigning group Treatment Action Concern, their recently ended congress has pledged to resume the fight to force the government to provide drug treatment for HIV/Aids victims.

Fri 6

Despite all the governments pronouncements on the causes of the HIV/Aids virus Pretoria is now ready to accept a grant from the United Nations Global Fund to Fight Aids after a 12 month delay.

The grant, of £25m, includes money for Aids drugs and testing for the disease in KwaZulu Natal province where more than one third of adults are HIV positive. It will herald the first opportunity for many South Africans to receive Aids drugs through the public health system.

Commenting the grant a spokesman for Treatment Action Concern (qv) indicated that whilst the government induced delay was unwelcome, now that the money was available, "today's grant signing is a turning point in South Africa. Now we can work together to ensure the delivery of these services."

Sat 7

Hard on the heels of Pretoria's acceptance of \$44m from the UN's Global Fund to Fight Aids (qv 6/8) the minister of health has issued a statement that turns government policy on its head.

Just days after the president reassured the view that the prescription of anti retroviral drugs for those suffering from the HIV virus was not the way to combat the disease there has been an overturning of government policy. Days after the minister M T Msimang was heckled at in Durban we here this "Anti retroviral drugs can improve the conditions of people living with Aids when administered in accordance with

international standards.” However, in a reference to the president’s earlier thoughts on a need for a wider policy of the standard of the nation’s public services, the minister said “public health services should be available to all.”

Mon 11

Twelve months on from the end of the civil war in Angola, the former secretary to Jonas Savimbi, Bela Malaquias, lives a comfortable life in a in a Luanda high rise flat. Working as a journalist, and studying for a law degree in her spare time. Life seems good, but it has not always been so.

In an earlier life, 12 months ago, as secretary to the MPLA leader, she was stuck in the bush. Barely surviving, jailed for being educated women, loss of husband and family witness to many deaths of children and others, on the orders of boss. Her chief memory is the deaths of family members 20 years ago. In the rebels southern capital of Jamba, when here aunts defiant cry of “Savimbi you will never win, and you yourself will come to a tragic end,” was right. Out of suffering the journalist now endeavors to prevent the horror of rebel leader’s regime being airbrushed out of history.

While the production of oil, 920, 000 barrels per day this year, bring wealth and prosperity to areas of the capital there are still areas of degradation, piles of rubbish and unmade roads surrounding the Cuban built high rise flats. Along with a number of high quality brands named shops there is, in the former Unita headquarters a nightclub. Here the well heeled teenagers can listen to Angola’s pop sensation Patricia Feria.

Private education is booming in the country. With four new privately funded universities, there seems no competition for the one public university, named after Angola’s first president Agostinho Neto. Here the lecturers are, and have been for the last 4 weeks, on strike. They are asking the government for a wage rise. In the countryside; 600 miles south of the capital, in Chongeroi, peasants and former soldiers are gathering seeds to establish a seed bank to keep the American and their GM seeds at bay.

Claims of an ideological link between the first National Party’s elected leader, Dr H Verwoerd, and the present leader in Zimbabwe are made in the book *Brothers Under the Skin* by C Hope and published by Macmillan at £15. 99, show that they both had a hatred of the British. In their determination to introduce tribal power they both believed in racial cleansing imposed all changes through democratic means - having first packed the parliament with party supporters – and would not brook any opposition. They jailed or expelled anyone spoke out against these moves. An end came only when, in South Africa’s case there was an assassination. – G2, page 4/5 –

Durban, the city that Leeds city council has council twinning arrangements with, is to receive a shipment of 20, 000 books that have been collected through donations from throughout the area. The books, that cover all spectrum of the written word – novels to educational - are to be given to schools in the area who are short of this type of material. – news item YEP –

Mon 18

After the years of procrastination, as to the provision of anti retroviral drugs to fight the HIV/Aids epidemic, questions need to be answered.

According to the writer in London the rolled out provisions programme will begin by the end of 9/03. The whole of South Africa if Pretoria's plans are workable, which the paper feels is unlikely, will be covered by 12/08. - **Financial Times 11/8** -

With the acceptance of the United Nations grant (qv 6/8) Pretoria has made this U turn solely because of international pressure, the activities of pressure groups and the concerns shown by Nelson Mandela. – **Washington Post 12/8** –

An alternative view on Mbeki's change of heart, the writers opinion is that an up and coming in KwaZulu Natal could be lost without an effective strategy to fight the virus. - **Sunday Times South Africa 10/8** -

As to cost of treatments, according to writers who quote a government report; not to provide anti retroviral drugs would cost R6.7bn by the year 2010 while a 100% roll out would cost R16.9bn and R21bn by the same year. It would result in 1.7m deaths being deferred to 2010. - **ditto** -

As to the nationwide number of infected persons, according to the Aids Foundation for South Africa, there are 2.7m women between the ages 15 – 49 and 2.1m men over the same age range, as were 83,581 babies through the mother to child transmission.

The number of deaths 250,000/ year – from 2006. By the year 2008 it is expected that 500,000 will die every year. By the end of that year the life expectancy will be 40 years; down from the 60 years of 1998.

Even as these measures are being enacted, according to the the Mbeki government is challenging the rights of rape victims to receive Nevirapine as a matter of course. **The Economist 7/8**,

The distribution of this drug is in itself threatened as the minister of health has called on the German manufacturers Boehringer Ingelheim must show, by 10/03 – that drug trials were properly conducted.

Posing the question “is the announcement just procrastination” readers are being told that rather than anti retrovirals are ‘unaffordable’ they are now hearing that providing treatment is a very complex exercise which requires a high level ‘detailed operational plan’, sophisticated monitoring systems, among other things, before we can act at all. **N Natrass; Business Day 12/8**

Tues 26

With echoes of the corruption scandal involving British Aerospace Systems and Pretoria (qv), the investigating body has unearthed a second line of investigation. However this time there is to be no prosecution at this time.

In this case it is the deputy prime minister, J Zuma, who it is alleged to have been involved with the French arms manufacturer Thompson CFS. Although the deputy prime minister had no direct contact with the now named Thales company it is through his links, through his financial adviser S Shalk, that links are made.

According to the chief public prosecutor, B Ngcuca, there will be prosecutions of the Ncobi group of companies and Thompson CFS on charges of contravening company law. In any similar charges against Mr Zuma it was felt that it was not absolutely certain that the government would win its case.

Wed 27

Anthony Sher's new play, *Id*, previewing at the Almeida theatre London 020 7359 4404 from 28/8, tells the story of the 1966 stabbing of the architect of apartheid Dr H Verwoed, who was assassinated by D Tsanfendas. The life and times of the former parliamentary were told in the 2000 book (qv 5/8).

Thurs 28

Talks in Geneva, between members of the World Trade Organisation, have agreed a policy on the supply of generic copies of Aids related patented drugs. The one stipulation that the United States forced through was that the sale of these cheaper medicines would only be available to the world's poorer nations. This would be so that the mainly USA based manufacturers would not lose profits in sales to the world's richer nations.

Using the premise of 1985 law that bans US federal funding for groups that assist in enforced abortion or sterilisation, Aids related monies have been withdrawn from the Marie Stopes International group because of its 'birth control' work with the government of China.

The withdrawal of funds comes weeks after the president's tour of the continent in which he pledged \$15bn – of which Congress even cut the first year's grant of \$3bn to \$2bn – and only affects one of seven agencies involved in projects to promote HIV/Aids awareness in three African countries.

Sun 31

Wedding news: Swaziland's absolute monarch, King Mswati 111, has chosen bride number 11, thus giving him a football team of wives. Locals expect him to strengthen his squad after the annual Reed Dance of Virgins, an event he always follows closely.
People Observatory IOS, page 26 -

SEPTEMBER 2003

Mon 1

The Sowetean Eagles, biker gangs, based in the township, are attempting to break down the apparent racist attitudes of their white compatriots. At this latest attempt in Graskop a small town in Mpumalanga province there is stiff opposition from 8, 500 or so white bikers who are attending the Paradise bikers rally.

The Eagles, under their president, China Pusoeng, have been making the breakthrough attempt since 1994, as have members of the other 15 bikers, as before then they were not permitted to infringe on white society.

Since the 1980's there has been bikes in the township. Even at the height of the apartheid struggle; late 80's and early ninety's the Eagles were around in the township. It could be said that the bikers performances helped the security situation during those troubled times. As the black police were stationed in the township, to secure a specter of law and order, as the machines emerged law and order were forgotten as the black police came around and admired the machines.

Tues 9

Durban, the venue for the 4th congress organised by the Swiss based World Conservation Union, host to 2, 500 delegates who are in the city to discuss the environmental and social issues involved in the formation of national parks and the forced removal of the indigenous people to that area.

At the opening of the 10 day gathering, that will hear from representatives of 120 such peoples, president Mbeki charged the delegates to find new ideas, new perspectives and new relationships to confront the new challenges that are forthcoming with the growing number of cross border national parks; the Great Limpopo Transfrontier park. Will it suffer because of part of the park could be affected by Zimbabwean policy over the next few years.

Others at the conference, D Grossman an ecologist working on behalf of the Makulek peoples who have been moved from the Kruger National Park, see the aims of the conference in a different light. To him the more important issue is that these 'displaced peoples' are not receiving handouts from the government. Rather it is the park authorities recognising that they have legitimate rights to their own land and in their own way has been committed to conserving the land.

Wed 10

As part of the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition, being held in London, Pretoria's state arms manufacturer Denel has its products on show.

One of its offerings is the Eagle Eye target acquisition binocular. Its selling point is that is a long range laser range finder with digital magnetic compass and built in GPS

system for position and target location. Other features include a voice recorder to capture target descriptions. Also there is a digital camera to capture target image. side panel GDN page 4 –

Fri 12

Speaking at the Durban conference of the World Conservation Union (qv 9/9), Richard Leaky, anthropologist and sometime Kenyan politician, offered the opinion that the preservation of plants should become before the rights of indigenous people.

Defending his position Dr Leaky indicated that such people deserved compensation. However to let them manage the parks where they once lived risked unraveling environmental and economic gains.

The response from those campaigning for the rights of those expelled from their ancestral lands was predictably angry. One such activist, E Porokwa speaking up for the Masai in Tanzania, commented that “Leakey’s taking us back to the colonial era.”

Sat 13

With the approval of the authorities in Pretoria two South African companies have joined five other health care companies on a short list to provide countrywide treatment centre's which will perform 250, 000 operations over the next five years.

Netcare UK will perform general surgery and orthopaedic, ophthalmology and cancer treatment, via two mobile units, in many NHS regions. The company is South Africa’s largest integrated private healthcare organisation with 45 hospitals. It will operate in a consortium with an UK based construction company.

Care UK; Afrox this South African led consortium will help to reduce the waiting lists in the field of general and orthopaedic surgery throughout the NHS Trust regions. It is an UK registered company and is a partnership between Care UK, which operates nursing and residential nursing homes in the UK, and African Oxygen Ltd, part of BOC’s medical group. – side panel, GDN page 7 –

Wed 17

Among a short list of six for the internationally acclaimed Booker Prize is South Africa born writer D Galgut and his novel The Good Doctor.

“Galgut seems the most likely of the crop of young South African novelists to fill JM Coetzee’s shoes. This strong story of a young doctor posted to a hospital in a tribal trust land has echoes of Graham Green, with the Brigadier, an old doctor from apartheid days, and the nagging sense that no meaningful contact between races”.

Odds; Ladbrokes: 5/1. William Hill 7:1 – side panel, GDN page 5 –

Fri 19

A Royal College of Surgeons report, by J Buchan and I Secombe of University College Edinburgh indicate to what extent the NHS and private medicine rely on services of nurses trained overseas.

Of the 16, 000 recruited from outside Britain there was 2,114 recruited from South Africa. Over the same period of this report, 2000 to 2001, 14, 500 were registered after training in Britain. – GDN page 12, C 7 –

Sat 20

The designer K Hamnett, a long time political activist, has designed a product that will, it is hoped, bring the awareness of the scourge of the Aids virus to many more South Africans than the advertising industry does already.

The design, to be splashed on a designer top, will carry the slogan ‘Use a Condom’. This will be spelt out in diamante across the chest. It is hoped that the international fashion model Naoimi Campbell will assist in the project.

The model was chosen, according to the designer, because Ms Campbell is an icon in the country. – extract, GDN page 8, C4 –

Tues 23

In the media world the current spotlight is on those in the industry who are alleged to have ‘lifted’ work of another only to claim it as their own. The accusations of plagiarism was first raised eight weeks ago when the rated newspaper columnist D B Bovey was accused of lifting the words of B Bryson from his Notes from a Big Country. They then appeared in his book The Naked Bachelor. Soon afterwards parts of The English, by J Paxman were seen in on of his columns in the Cape Times.

Recently the editor of the South African Elle magazine, C Vongai, was accused of allowing words, that appeared on a website askmen. Com, into here daily Sowetan piece. – GDN page 14, C 7 –

Following the 2002 decision of the South African based conglomerate Anglo American to provide its workers to fight the Aids Virus (qv 7/8) a second London based company is to follow suit.

The Drinks group Diageo, who has made the decision on humanitarian grounds, has agreed to provide the drugs for all its workers on the African continent. Not only will the 5, 000 who are currently employed in 25 countries benefit, those that retire or are sacked or leave the company; whose brands range from Guinness to Smirnoff will also a continued supply of anti retroviral drugs.

Under this scheme the families of workers will also be eligible for the drugs, something the Anglo families are not entitled to.

Wed 24

Comments on the closure of the Daily News in Zimbabwe – as “the court was packed with Mugabe supporters” and the Media Information Commission was “set up by the president last year to muzzle Zimbabwe’s teetering media,” the tactics were transparent “It is a crude attempt to silence critics amid a deepening socioeconomic and political crisis.” – **Business Day** –

As to the vacant position of vice president – “The vacancy presents Mr Mugabe with the perfect opportunity [to] save his ailing country by bringing the MDC on board and salvage his legacy. It’s a pity that Mr Mugabe, a gifted intellectual, had lost so many opportunities to show his determination to save his country from imploding.” - **The Sowetan, GDN page 24, C 1** –

Thurs 25

As the leader of Leeds City Council, Councilor K Wakefield arrives in the city of Durban, so does the consignment of 10 boxes of good quality second hand books (qv 11/8) collected by children and students from throughout the city over the past few months.

The gift from Leeds schools will be housed in the library of Hambanathi School in the north of the city. The new building was funded by Thekwini Municipality and the country’s library services. Another recipient of the Books for Durban scheme; launched in 9/02, after an inaugural civic visit was Velabhleka High School in the city.

Fri 26

A government report, written by C Du Plessis and running to 476 pages, has concluded that the epidemic of attacks on white farmers and attempted seizures of their land was inspired by the dispossession rather than any political motive.

The report was commissioned in mid 2001 by the safety and security ministry following an increase on attacks on white farmers (qv 1/8) and concerns of the new farmers group, the Transvaal Farmers Union, which had been set up to mobilise in defence of farm attacks.

One of the conclusions was that less than 2% of the attacks had any political or racial motive. The criminals, who came onto the land, would mainly attack the elderly if they would not reveal the whereabouts of any money or other valuables kept in the farmhouse.

To back up this reports findings, a second one – from the South African Human Rights Commission, published recently – detailed human rights and labour law abuses in the agricultural sector, were not politically motivated.

Mon 29

Rugby in South Africa is one of the last bastions of the white man, and still rife with racism. However there is one team; the Soweto Rugby Club, who are placed in third position in the Gauteng province league, who are rewriting the form book.

So well is the team playing that they will travel to Ellis Park, the Johannesburg stadium, for a semi final clash against a white team, Old Edwardian's, in an attempt to move onto a promotion clash. Whatever the result the team will feel like winners

Team members agree that true integration of the sport will take time, but since the countries 1995 World Cup victory progress has been made. There are still instances of, in a mixed race team, the black players running around for 80 minutes and not receiving a pass of the ball.

Following the resignation of the Springbok's media manager, because of the still endemic racism in the national team; a player would not share a room with a black player an independent inquiry, led by retired judge E King, will look into all aspects of the sport. Hearings are expected to begin in 2004.

Tues 30

In a celebration of his countries transformation into a peaceful multiracial society the former editor of the defunct Rand Daily Mail Glisters Sparks (qv) has set his thoughts down in the book Beyond the Miracle, Inside the New South Africa, published by Profile, at 288 pages.

In conclusion the former scourge of the apartheid regime, who among with many whites, could not identify with the country of their birth and felt "emotionally stateless" until Mandela's inauguration day - May 10 1994 – which was "the most stirring day of my life. South Africa was indeed another country." – **Time Magazine**, 22/9 -

OCTOBER 2003

Fri 3

The exiled novelist, JM Coetzee, has been awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize for literature. With the recognition of his writings as a 'scrupulous doubter, ruthless in his criticism of the cruel rationalisation and the cosmetic morality of western civilisation, comes a cheque of £780, 000.

The author of such books as Disgrace and Waiting for the Barbarians and other literature on the dark meditations of post apartheid has lived outside South Africa for many years. His 'self imposed exile' was imposed after a clash with the ANC over one of his writings.

In the novel Disgrace the central character's daughter, like him a white academic is raped by three black men, who are not prosecuted because of the daughters guilt of being a member of the colonial power. – GDN page 3, C 1 –

Sat 4

Those people with the most tentative links to main stream society, the homeless, are finding themselves victims of traditional medicine and its needs. The work of the sangoma in South African society is well established.

Some people describe their work as witchcraft, but the traditional medicine; muti is a well respected tradition in rural areas. However, police investigations have revealed, that some of the muti used – body parts – comes from the victims of murder.

Over the last few months' cases that have hit the headlines include the case of an abattoir employee, S Tshazi, being jailed for life for murder and the selling of the victims severed head to be used in muti ceremonies. In another case, in Pretoria, four sangoma's were jailed for the murder one of their own JK Shego who had parts of his body removed whilst he was still alive. According to belief to take from a living body enhances the effect of the muti.

According to the head of a special investigations unit set up by the police force there are between 150 and 300 such killings every year. George Laubshchange, the unit's chief, believes that many other killings occur that are not reported. This is as a result of the fear of them becoming victims and subject to being bewitched. – Big Issue, page 6 –

Thurs 9

The creeping Africanisation of places, and provinces, continues, gone is the Transvaal, and so too will the name Jan Smuts if the ANC has its way. Named after the apartheid prime minister, and WW2 general, the authorities in Pretoria want an African name for its

capital city's international airport. If they have their way visitors will soon land at the Oliver Tambo International Airport.

Support for the name change has come from the white editor of the Business Day newspaper who has said, "There are only a handful of places in South Africa named after a white person who wasn't a land grabbing murderer. Does anyone seriously expect black South Africans that they should reconcile themselves to the honour bestowed on these hoodlums."

Notwithstanding the known measures that big business are taking to prevent the Aids virus decimating the production of goods and services there is still a long way to go to conquer the fear and misunderstandings of the workforce.

Introduced 12 months ago, the anti retroviral drugs handed out by the Anglo American Corporation to employees are not openly accepted by those with HIV. To take an example; an employee of Anglo Coal aged 42 is receiving treatment. However he is slow in admitting his status, first to his wife and then to his fellow workers. As things stand dependents of infected workers do not benefit from anti retroviral drugs, if they themselves are infected with the virus.

For Anglo Coal to safeguard the future of its 124, 300 local employees is a huge cost, and to offer the same safeguards to dependents is something that management find, at this time, too expensive.

In the 12 months since the offer of HIV effective drugs has been offered by the mining conglomerate to its 30, 000 workers only 700 have taken up the offer, through the work on an inspired B Brink who devised the whole initiative.

Breaking the taboo at local level, manager J S White at Goedehoop colliery, which mines 8m tons of coal a year, found that 171 staff were HIV positive. It is still not known how many of the 1, 229 workers carry the virus.

As to the stance of the National Union of Mineworkers grants of R2, 500 / £227 are offered as funeral expenses for the death of a wage earner. Annually this is a draw of between R6bn – R7bn a year. It is expected to rise sharply in the future.

The mining house BHP Billington; indicate that tests on 6, 000 of its southern African workers, show that 14% of them are HIV positive. Measures that have helped, in what is seen as 'winning ways' in fighting Aids, are to reduce the use of migrant workers. The company now employs only 7% of its workforce from rural Mozambique, rather than the 55% in the past. A good faith sign is membership of the company's health care scheme and mandatory HIV screening. There is also a full service of third party services provided.

The companies regional health adviser, A de Bergh, who has been tracking the disease for the last 12 years says the spread of the Aids virus is stabilising, the rate of increase is slowing down rapidly.”

Fri 10

“There are many reports of former South Africans mobbing the Springboks” – used as a symbol of all that is good about this country, even after you have left to live overseas. Why would you want to “willingly abandon one of the most vibrant, fascinating societies for a monochromatic dull place like New Zealand, Australia or Canada. ... people who lived in South Africa during the last few decades have a moral obligation to help build this society after the ravages of apartheid.”

“Two things happened that made me reconsider... The first was meeting an old South African with a strong record of opposing apartheid.... [who] stated that [his cultural heritage was] Greek .. But he passionately calls himself African. The second was meeting a young man who whose mother had emigrated to Canada ... and wanted her adult children to join her .. They are black South Africans – his mother got a top job as a hospital matron in Canada and increased her income 800% ..

Perhaps *should* accept that South Africa has become normalised to such an extent that emigration and immigration are just processes that are inevitable. – **M du Preez, The Star 9/10 Expat South Africans Rankle; GDN page 30 –**

Sat 11

According to Home Office research, by Linda McDonald, firearm numbers/ 100, 000 of South Africa 's population is 80. 05. As a comparison the same research shows that in England and Wales the figure is 0. 12. – graphic, **GDN page 11 -**

Independence Square, Luanda, Angola’s capital, is the weekly setting for a hugely popular television programme. With the premise of reuniting children that have been separated through the actions of both sides in the recently ended civil war.

Though Angolan televisions Naco Corangen, or Courageous Nation adults can show pictures of their missing siblings. On the other hand children, who were taken, as child soldiers, can make appeals for lost parents. – **GDN Weekend, page 34 –**

Tues 14

Ed Fagin, the American lawyer noted for his class action on behalf of South Africa’s apartheid victims (qv 20/5) is once again to return to the courts. This time he is seeking redress for American companies whose pension schemes did not adequately compensate their African employees during the years of apartheid.

The case, set to be presented in the New York court, has been prepared by the South African lawyer J Ngebetsha, is claiming \$100b from the US based companies. According to the claim, against such conglomerates as Union Carbide, the Dow Chemical company and the South African financial group Alexander Forbes denied their mainly black ex employees any benefits from monies deposited – by them – in company life, retirement, or unemployment funds.

Wed 15

The Constitutional Court has made a ruling that is set to change the fortune of one group of indigenous people, with the potential to help many other peoples that claim to have lost possession of their land through colonial era land grabbing machinations of their so called betters.

The Nama community, now reduced to living in tin shacks; without electricity, in Richterveld in the north west of the country, has the legitimate claim to the ownership of land and therein the diamond mines in Alexander Bay on the north west coast.

It was in 1847 the 4, 000 strong community was cleared when the Cape Colony government annexed the land. When, in the 1920's alluvial diamond deposits was discovered, a further 85, 000 hectares round the Orange River was taken.

To the present day administration – through the state diamond company Alexcor, whose defence to the court that the Nama were to uncivilised to own land, a colonial era argument was thrown out by the judges. There could be a loss of £870 million pounds in revenue.

The next move for the community, according to their lawyer H Smith, is to file a claim for restoration of ownership and financial compensation through the land claims court or seek an agreement with the state.

Fri 17

The fight for cheaper drugs, to combat the effects of the Aids virus, takes another important step after a ruling by the South African competition commission. In support of the pressure group Treatment Action Concern and its belief that the pharmaceutical companies are making undue profits. It has ruled that at least Britain's GlaxoSmith Klein and Boehringer Ingelheim are two such companies.

On the day that the ruling was made, with the next step being an appeal to the commissions tribunal, GSK announced a further reduction in the price of its own products. The two drug combination; Combivir (qv 28/4) will now be priced at \$273/£164 . However generic drugs Cipla, from India, is \$197 or Rambaxy's costs \$256.

The tribunal is to be asked to rule that overseas companies must allowed to sell their generic drugs in the country. In addition they will be asked to levy a 10% penalty on the

multinational annual turnover on the sales of their Aids drugs sold in South Africa since the inception of the 1998 competition act.

As of this time GSK has one South African Company; Aspen in the process of gearing up to produce generics. However the finished product is not yet commercial and there is no certainty that they will sell at an affordable price.

Although welcomed by Nelson Mandela a new statue in central Johannesburg of Mahatma Gandhi is causing ripples throughout South African society. To many, this young Indian lawyer was the beginning of the fight to be free of colonial rule, to others he was only concerned with the plight of his fellow Indians.

Sat 18

The work of photographer Gideon Mendal, endorsed by Judge E Cameron in 2002 (qv 14/12) is showcased. In his new panoramic pictures, which tell much of a story in a single frame, he Guilhem Alandry and Tessa Lewin show those who, untreated, have nothing but hope and the miraculous, transforming effect for those who are receiving treatment. **GDN Weekend page 17**

Highlighted, Thulani Xulu, brother of Ncane died aged 31 from Umlazi, Durban. **Sylvia** Mashlanga aged 24, from Tsakane E Rand, who is not receiving treatment for her HIV status. V Guciane 25, from Mbekweni, Paarl. M Madondo, 29, Orange Farm not. D Dlamini 29 Soweto, N K Gugulethu 25, Nyanga Cape Town Z Cele 31, Umlazi Durban, N Kwaza 34, Gugulethu Cape Town. K M Eugenia 15 died 8/03. T Ncapayi 31, Khayelitsha Cape Town. C Mlenze 39, Mbekweni not receiving treatment. E Mashaba Orange Farm. K Gwala 33, not on treatment. E Mashaba 24, Orange Farm not on treatment. K Gwala 33, not on treatment. B Gcwaba age unknown Lost City Michell Plains.

A Rugby World Cup turn out, against England, for the Springbok saw them defeated 25:6

Sun 19

London is to be the venue for a themed conference "A decade of freedom ... the decade ahead" to be held at the cities Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre. With the 10th anniversary of the ANC's rule in South Africa less than 12 months away the 2 day conference will be a time delegates will be able to reconnect with the struggle, formally taken up by the Anti Apartheid Movement, to secure the economic stability of the country.

Attending the conference will be the wife of Thabo Mbeki as well as many of the government ministers from Pretoria. They will address 700 businessmen and stalwarts of the Anti Apartheid Movement's successor; Action for Southern Africa. Formed after the 1994 election they have 6, 000 supporters and 3, 000 voting members.

Some of the issues that will be discussed are the ‘forgotten promises’ of the 1990’s, the refusal of the European Union to allow Pretoria to join its aid for developing countries. Another contentious issue is the 9 years that talks have continued on agreeing a trade and development agreement. – contact QE2 Centre 020 7451 7139 -

Mon 20

Six hours north of Johannesburg live, in rural poverty, live the Hananwa people. A forgotten people, who battled through the so called Maleboho War of 1894, with the Boer leader Paul Kruger, who was searching for decent farmland for his emerging Boer republic.

At that time Chief Maleboho was leading the group in a refusal to pay a hut tax, the cost of, which would force them to work in the mines, owned by the republic. Not happy with this the Afrikaners, with some British help, waged war in the area. Despite a retreat to the hills, where the epic struggle was painted on 24m of rock face, the tribe was forced to submit. The chief, and his generals, was jailed. Cattle were distributed throughout the republic and 3 Hanawa people were given to the Boers as slaves. At the defeat of the Boer Republic, 6 years later, the British released the chief and restored his lands.

To the present day, after years of a nondescript existence, throughout the years of apartheid, it is a possibility that the rock paintings; which depict the whole heroic struggle, from burning Boer ox carts to the chained Hanawa, could be used as the central theme in a new tourist location.

Tues 21

Letters, [1] **J Younger, GlaxoSmith Kline** as to the availability of cheap drugs to fight HIV infection, (qv 17/10), the prices quoted as a comparison with our \$273 price is lower than the generics – offered by the Indian companies – as our price includes freight and insurance costs.

[2] **A Shama, Action for South Africa** why the delay, of 2 years, to heed the call of pressure groups TAC, ngo’s, MEP’s and others on price reductions? A similar non-understanding stance – although welcome – is the license granted to Aspen Pharmacare to export to sub Saharan Africa. Pretoria could also help the situation by amending the regulatory framework to adhere to the Doha declaration on access to medicines.

Wed 22

With the rather un snappy title ‘46664 Give a Minute of Your life to Aids;’ the number refers to that acquired by the Robben Island prisoner Nelson Mandela, the former president was in London to launch a benefit concert. This will take place in Cape Town in 11/03.

The three hour show, reborn since 18/1, will feature artists such as Bono, Beyonce Knowles and Queen, will be offered up for television transmission to a possible audience of three billion.

An investigation, through a judicial inquiry, into claims that South Africa's director of public prosecutions, B Ngckwa, worked as a spy for the former apartheid regime has been thrown of course by the admissions of a London based national.

The human rights lawyer V Brereton; or agent RS452 said that during the 1980's she was recruited by the security police to inform on suspected communist sympathisers. Coming out into the open was her way of ending the time of living a lie. **GDN page 16, C7**

Thurs 23

"In the US the Herero tribe of Namibia has been able this year to win a £1.2bn court case against three German firms accused of conspiring to exterminate 65, 000 Hereros between 1904 and 1907." – **GDN page 16, C 2 –**

Sat 25

With the understanding that private individuals, working in the South African medical profession cannot be prevented from traveling to work in the NHS in Britain, the two countries have signed a memorandum of intent. With this agreement the NHS will encourage temporary exchanges of staff, who will after a short time return to their own countries, much the richer for the learning opportunities gained.

This agreement comes at a time, when according to the Nursing and Midwifery Council, 3,594 South African nurses registered in the two years to the end of 3/03.

Mon 27

Bill Clinton last week announced a deal that will dramatically reduce the price of Aids medicine in developing countries. Through the Clinton Foundation HIV/Aids Initiative the foundation has brokered a an agreement with three Indian companies – Cipla, Randbaxy and Matrix – and a South African one, Aspen, to offer two key anti retroviral drug cocktails for as little as \$0.38 per person per day, less than half the price of most affordable drugs now available. – **Economist, 25/10 –**

Wed 29

After the clearance of the many shanty town shacks erected by those who had returned to Cape Town's 'mixed race' suburb of District Six an area that was subject to enforced removal of all 50, 000 residents by the apartheid regime in the mid 1970's; the rebirth of the area is about begin.

With immediate effect building work, for the erection of 24 units to house the elderly, which will be ready in months. Following this phase two will continue on homes for the

1, 700 former residents of the area that have opted to return, rather than take compensation and move elsewhere. The ground covered by the 'new' District Six will be 100 acres.

Comments on the closure of Zimbabwe's Daily News "enough was enough, the situation in Zimbabwe could only be reversed if South Africa began to get tough with its neighbour, ending its policy of 'thundering silence' in the wake of President Mugabe's repressive rule".

Why is it that the African National Conference "vociferously opposes" the issue of trade and investment sanctions against Zimbabwe – the very tools it advocated when in exile, against South Africa's old apartheid regime. Simply put, Zimbabwe "can be persuaded by its larger trading partner." New "tough diplomacy ... is the answer." – **Business Day, GDN page 26, C 1 -**

NOVEMBER 2003

Sat 1

As the countries bio diversity is being compromised by the colonial introduction of non native plants and fruits Cape Town has been chosen as the starting point of a programme to rid the country, and continent,- of these non natural influences.

As the headquarters of the Global Invasive Species Programme Unemployed township workers are being paid between £3.00 , unskilled and £6.40 skilled, to eradicate these 'foreign invaders'.

The project, centered on the Kirstenbosch botanical gardens, set up buy the World Conservation Union and financed by the World Bank, will be officially launched in the New Year. Meanwhile work has begun. In the Voelvlei Mountains, 30 miles from Cape Town, work has begun to clear the Australian import hakea. Such is the nature of this 'weed' that intensified the effects of drought and threatens the indigenous Protea 's that a six man team has been helicoptered into Sochem to chainsaw it away.

According to the project manager, Dr G Preston, these invaders affect 10m hectares 8% of South Africa. Of the 1m hectares cleared, not a single invasive species has been eradicated, merely controlled. To be effective three more applications of herbicide will need to be applied to the hakea plants.

Sun 2

"A treason trial of 22 members of a white extremist group began. A police informer said they planned to kill ex – president Mandela, overthrow the black majority government and expel 35 million blacks and more than a million people of Indian origin from the country". – Seven Days, IOS page 29 –

Mon 3

Colonel Eugene de Koch, who as on of the apartheid era's most prolific assassins, who was sentenced to a lengthy period in jail, in 1996 (qv 31/10), is a candidate; according to a psychologist for release.

In a number of prison interviews, since 1997, P G Madizela from the University of Cape Town 'Prime Evil;' the assassins sobriquet deserves forgiveness. This clinical study shows how an apparently ordinary man becomes murderer in chief for a brutal regime.

This conclusion, written up in the book A Human Being Died That Night: A South African Story of Forgiveness, published in South Africa by Houghten Miffioin, is even

more surprising as the author was brought up in Langa township and well accustomed to seeing the work of the security forces.

Tues 4

Johannesburg resident, David Goldblat is one of four other photographers to be shortlisted for the international Citigroup photographic prize of £20, 000.

For his submitted piece, the 73 year old who began capturing images since 1961 chose a bus full of black passenger commuters. No ordinary journey this; an eight hour journey from Kwandebile to Pretoria. To begin at 2am and not return till 10pm saw the time traveling as their main 'sleep time'.

The issues that interested picture taker was not the 'interesting picture.' Rather it was "to probe the immediate world I live in." As for the prize judges this choice was made because 'his work had a unique position in documentary photography, exploring society through close attention to every day people and activities.' The winner will be announced on 4/3.

Fri 7

With acknowledged number of victims of land mines, according to the United Nations, in Mozambique since hostilities ended put at 500, 000, new ways and means of 'sniffing' them out are urgently being sought.

One such way, after three years of research by Belgian Bartes Weetjens, is to use the African pouched rat. According to scientists who have conducted field trials in Tanzania the rats are lightweight, easy to transport and do not form a close affinity with their handlers. Upon detecting an unexploded ordinance the rats scratch at the ground as an indication of its presence.

It is expected that the rats will be deployed by 14/11 in 25 mile swathe of mine infected land.

Tues 11

Speculating on the position of Sub Saharan Africa in the not too distant future was the job of politicians and academics at a conference in Cape Town. Up for discussion was a scenario change. At the present time Africa's economy is predominantly agricultural and the selling of their minerals overseas. What the conference was looking at was how would this regions economy be in the year 2025?

The basis for this far reaching 'navel gazing' is the book Africa 2025, What possible futures for Sub – Saharan Africa? edited by A Sall, Unisa Press, University of South Africa.

The book offered four scenarios –

[1] The lions are hungry; is the hopeless picture painted by American journalists such as R Kaplan of ‘lawless lands plagued by violence, wracked by hunger and poverty adrift at the whim of lawlords.

[2] The lions are trapped; is one in which the old pattern of looking after relationships dominates but with no envisaged boost to productivity.

[3] The lions are out of their den; new generations of entrepreneurs and politicians will create new relationships between political and economic power, and commit to continent wide economic integration. An extract, Spirit of a new Bandug, by Victoria Brittain – GDN page 23, -

Fri 14

Just uncovered is an internal memo, written for the American and British heads of government, by D Evans and S Abraham the US commerce secretary and energy secretary respectively. The detail of this is that the British government will help the USA secure guaranteed oil from new sources in Africa. One of the likely ‘sources’ will be Angola, which as already noted is rich in offshore deposits (qv).

With more than 12% of the population infected with the HIV virus, which allows as many as 1, 000 South Africans to die of Aids every day, the government in Pretoria has announced – with the approval of parliament of course – a hefty increase in the amount spent to tackle the pandemic.

With the approval of the legislature the finance minister, T Manuel, wants to increase the budget 4x’s over the next 3 years. This would amount, he told parliament on 12/10, to R12.1bn, £1bn. Of the new cash R1.9bn would be used to finance the supply of the anti retroviral drugs so needed in the hospitals and clinics.

Commenting, a spokesman for Treatment Action Concern (qv) said that this amount was a “good starting point, the figure is much more than expected. – Mbeki ups Aids spending GDN page 16, C 7 -

Tues 18

The laying down of a fibre optic cable connection; SAT3 between South Africa, Europe and the USA in 2/03, has opened the way a newish industry to break out in the Rainbow Nation. It is now hoped that ‘outsourcing’ of jobs from the first to the third world will become common.

Of one set up already is a Cape Town, Dimensions Data; there are great hopes. With a small beginning; it has been tasked to influence British purchasing managers of computer technology to buy their clients products. At the moment 150 telesales people, all highly trained, work out of Cape Town. There are hopes that offices will open in Durban and

Johannesburg. As a whole the industry could be looking at having 1000, 000 seats in the country within the next four to five years.

Other professions that are known to closely associate are architects. One such partnership is between London based CZWG the Louis Karol Associates. Their current project, LKA in Cape Town are producing vital drawings for the redevelopment of Arsenal FC's new stadium in north London. At this time, however, the scheme is on hold due to financing.

The integration of business, between say London and Cape Town, is no difficult to understand. Both countries speak the same language, the time difference is only one hour and there is a ready bank of people without jobs – people with under used skills – just ready to improve their life style.

Cape PLC (qv) the British based company that recently paid out compensation to workers, or relatives of workers, who had died in their South African asbestos mines, are using unusual measures to prevent legal action taking place in the USA against them. They are refusing to attend hearing there.

Their hope is that the British courts will not support successful American plaintiffs in such cases. The companies case is that now Cape PLC bears no resemblance to its former self – the present management structure was not in place at the time of the legal actions in the High Court in London – further the company has sold its mining interests and moved into the industrial services sector.

Wed 19

Obituary, K Gampu born 1929 – 4. 11. 03. heralded, during the blackest days of apartheid, as an inspiration to a generation of aspiring black South African actors, but still had to – despite appearing in several international productions – appear in parts playing the 'noble savage'.

Born in the city of Germiston, within easy reach of Johannesburg, he played the roles such as the USA's Paul Robeson, such were the conditions of the time, he had every intention of becoming a policeman after other pieces of employment – a PT instructor, furniture salesman and interpreter. He was recommended to try for a part in Afugard's stage production (1958) of *No Good Friday*, a bitter study of the effects of racism.

Other roles; musical King Kong 1959, film Tremor 1960, The Naked Prey 1966 Dinka 1968, stage Of Mice and Men 1975, Zulu Dawn 1979, Morenga 1985, King Solomon's Mines 1985, Ninja 4, the Annihilation 1991, A Reasonable Man 1999.

Between 1968 and 1970 time was spent in Hollywood, where the acting roles were scarce. However use of his sonorous voice was utilised performing poetry readings with the like of E G Robinson, P Sellers, Mia Farrow and Faye Dunaway. – GDN page 29, C 1 –

Thurs 20

With the help of the foundation, named after a former United States president; W J Clinton an agreement has been worked out that will see that the estimated 50, 000 people that would benefit from anti retroviral drugs will receive them.

The reaction of the health minister, M T Masimang, was more cautious. With the need for extra training of healthcare workers and the need to put out to tender the supply of the drugs the minister estimated that countrywide supply would be effective within 12 months.

Reaction from Treatment Action Concern (qv) was one of delight. However their spokesperson said “the hard work starts now. We must press the government to start distributing the drugs as soon as possible”.

Thurs 27

A report from the United Nations organisations Unicef charity paints a depressing world for the children of Sub Saharan Africa who’s parents suffer because of an infection of the HIV virus.

By the year 2010 more than 11 million children in this region will have lost one or more parents to the Aids virus. In Botswana and Swaziland, where 40% of adults will carry the virus, the number of orphans will reach the same levels as in Zimbabwe and Lesotho. This means that 1:5 or 80% of children will have lost one or both parents within the next six years. – GDN page 19, C 1

Sat 29

On the eve of the Aids 4664 benefit concert (qv 22/10) performers – Annie Lennox, Peter Gabriel and Beyonce Knowles were pictured on Robben Island to visit the cell of the former president Nelson Mandela. – GDN page 19 –

Sun 30

Before an estimated crowd of 40, 000 pop fans Green Point stadium in Cape Town was the venue for the Nelson Mandela 4664 Aids concert (qv). Joining the thousands there, as well as an expected audience of two billion people on the internet, the former president arrived via helicopter.

The concert was opened by Bono and U2 bandmate, the Edge, performing “American Prayer” with Beyonce. Of the song Bono said was about asking “churches to open their doors, to give sanctuary that break’s the stigma of being HIV positive.”

DECEMBER 2003

Mon 1

Obituary Lionel Ngakane 17. 7. 1928 – 26. 11. 2003 founder of Federation of Panafrican filmmakers in Tunis in 1967. Their function was to lobby governments and international institutions to promote the work of independent filmmakers throughout the continent. As the only representative from South Africa – the federation's regional secretary – his was the lone voice from a shunned country during the apartheid years of the 1970's and 1980's.

City born – Pretoria – educated Fort Hare University College and the University of the Witwatersrand. Employment, short time in Drum (qv) and Zonk magazines before being given his entry into the world of film as assistant producer to Z Korder in 1951. For post production work to London where natural association with exiles – ANC involvement ensued. Whilst in London – opened a bric a brac stall in Portabello Road market in north London thence into an antiques shop and socialised at the Hollubush bar in Hampstead.

Over six month, through reading books and the purchase of a 16mm film camera, he felt confident to embark on the production, in 1962, of a documentary **Vukani** an exposure of the evils of apartheid.

Other roles; Mark the Hawk as actor 1957, The Squeeze 1977 Jemima and Jonny 1960, a reflection of the racial conflicts of early Notting Hill Carnivals. Production, in 1985, of a documentary on Nelson Mandela. Post 1994 development of non theatrical community based film distribution organisation. Township cinema development. Board of M – Tel All Africa Film Awards as well as working with filmmakers in Canada and France.

Returning to a multi racial South Africa, in 1994, inspiration behind the legislation that set up the National Film and Video Foundation, with the aim of promoting the country as a place where film and video production was encouraged.

Wed 3

Obituary, Ester Levitan 6. 4. 20. – 10. 11. 03, born to Lithuanian Jewish parents, who fled Europe –only to return after the end of the second world war –, she became a thorn in the side of the apartheid regime from the late 1970's as a member of the Black Sash organisation.

One of her stunts was to place a commemorative wreath, after the death of Steve Biko (qv) in the Pretoria hall where the annual congress of the National Party was taking place. From this she had to make a hurried escape – in fear for her life.

Perhaps her most dangerous protest against the repressive regime, in 1979, was to agree to provide a hiding place for Stephen Lee who was on the run from the regime after a break out from Pretoria's central prison from an eight year jail term, for being a member of the ANC. Some 2 years later, because of these actions – the lifelong member of the SACP and the ANC – was herself detained by the security forces in John Vorster police station in Johannesburg.

Soon after her release she left South Africa, first to settle in Israel for 10 years. In 1993 she arrived in Ruislip, west London, to be near her daughter.

Wed 10

With the acceptance, that the site of the Nelson Mandela statue (qv 7/5) has to be relocated 45m to the right – away from the National Gallery, the planning committee of Westminster council have put up another objection to the planned 9m obelisk.

This time, according to the public arts committee of the Conservative council, the size and shape of the outstretched hands of the former president are the problem. Speaking about the decision the sculptor I Walters says that there is no way design will be changed. Also to express an opinion was Ken Livingstone, London's elected mayor, who put the objections down to one of political history. In the past members of Westminster council were known to wear 'Hang Mandela' T shirts.

Rather than political differences A Hooper, chair of the public arts committee, said even though the council was determined to have a statue of Mr Mandela, as it stands the proportion of hands to statue height needed a second look.

Fri 12

“Two ideas of Africa and how to bring about change in the world clashed at the Commonwealth summit in Abuja. One sees Africa as a failed region that will have to be gradually induced, with much outside surveillance to do better. The other sees a continent that, in order to come into its own, will have to join and perhaps lead a radical re – ordering of global and economic and political power.”

On the evidence of the behind the scenes moves to oust, the assumed anti Mugabe, Commonwealth secretary general Don McKinnon, and the self appointed saviour of the continent – Thabo Mbeki – failed. - **M Wollacott** -

The above can be stated because “The first difficulty is that at the ambitious African level the politics may be beyond South Africa's resources. The second is that at the more expedient level they can also be counter productive at home and abroad. The Abuja summit, which illustrates both difficulties, ought to have a sobering effect in Pretoria*.

* with help from “The future of Africa, J Herbst and G Mills, IISS, Oxford Union Press – **GDN page 28** -

Sat 13

Writing in the London based Spectator magazine Rian Malan (qv) argues that the perceived notion about the spread of Aids was wrong. According to his perception “It’s all the fault of the World Health Organisation and UNAids, the joint United Nations programme on Aids and HIV.

They issued bleak projections on the prevalence of Aids in the continent, and ‘reporting on Aids became a quest for anecdotes to support Geneva’s estimates, and the estimates grew even more terrible.’ The problem was that they were also wrong.

In South Africa, for example research into actual deaths from Aids showed a figure far below the UN’s original estimate of 250, 000 Aids fatalities per year in that country alone. Real life testing in South Africa has demonstrated infection rates far lower than models suggest – an estimate for the rest of Africa use models discredited by South Africa research.” – *New Statesman 15 – 30/12, The Editor, GDN page 26 –*

“Mzwakhe Mbuli, who was jailed in 1999 (qv 23/4) the radical South African poet, who performed a praise poem on Nelson Mandela’s inauguration as president has been released from prison.

The rabble – rousing Peoples Poet was given a 13 year jail sentence for robbing a bank in 1997, but insists he was a victim of a conspiracy to prevent him from revealing the names of prominent politicians involved in drug trafficking. Mbuli was supported by the veteran anti – apartheid politician and human rights activist Helen Suzman, who petitioned the justice department for his release.” – an extract, *Diary, GDN Review, page 7 –*

Tues 16

Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday hit out at South Africa’s failure to criticise human rights breaches in neighbouring Zimbabwe and its tacit acceptance of disputed 2002 elections that returned President Robert Mugabe to power.

His comments follow President Thabo Mbeki’s attack on the Commonwealth for extending Harare’s suspension. – **AP –**

Thurs 18

Visitors to the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria South Africa, watch as a ray of sunlight hits the unmarked tomb during a memorial service as part of the Day of Reconciliation celebrations on Tuesday. The president, Thabo Mbeki, joined revelers at the Union Buildings in the city. - picture caption **AP –**

Sat 20

According to two Namibian vendors of the magazine, Alfred Bayondro van Wyk and Oscar Nangoro, their wishes for 2004 are “some money and clothes, peace and justice, cooler rains and more wheat and peace and justice.” – **Big Issue in the North page 4** –

Sun 21

The style and grace, in movement, of the famous South African band Ladysmith Black Mambaza, as typified by their work on the Paul Simon (qv) album Graceland, is now a ‘one off’. Throughout the province of Kwa Zulu Natal the style of movement while performing, called Isicathamiya or “to walk like a cat” is a well practiced form of entertainment and competition.

One of the chief centers for this is in the YMCA building in the provincial capital of Durban. The entertainment, and competition, stretches over a weekend. First a day of practice. Then a day and night of finding the best performance by the ‘homeboy choir’.

The roots of Isicathamiya are the migrant workers brought in from the homelands to service the mines and homes of the whites, during the years of rule by the white minority governments. The choice of building, named, as the Bantu Social Center of 1932 was, at the time the only place where blacks could lawfully socialise. – **IOS Review page 26** –

Mon 22

Two men are in custody, and a third is still on the run, for the gang rape, that turned into the murder, of L Mlosana aged 21. According to a fellow worker, they both were employed by the campaigning group Treatment Action Concerned, the decision to kill the woman was the fact that she was HIV positive.

In the opinion of her colleagues, at TAC, which has been nominated for the Nobel peace prize for its campaign to promote tolerance and access to Aids drugs, the death of Ms Mlosana, was a criminal act that occurred in Khayelitsha, one of the townships outside Cape Town, and not a ‘stigma’ killing.

As the London Stock Exchange listed, but South Africa based, Old Mutual Insurance Company prepared to move into life insurance and management business in Britain. It was hoping to do this by the acquisition of Britannic Assurance or the UK assets of AMP the Australian based insurer.

As the end of Old Mutual’s financial year approaches, on 31/12, it would appear that the financial support, back in South Africa is not there. The banking arm of the group, Nedcor, revealed that profits were down R2bn, £170m. Much of the downturn in profits can be laid at the falling value of the South African currency and that Nedcor is having to finance Old Mutual’s insurance pay outs, despite the fact that it is generating less business.

Wed 24

Some time after the sub contracting of routine operations, from NHS 's trusts, to the South African private medical firm Netscape (qv 19/2) trust officials have had to investigate a number of complaints about the firm.

In the most serious cases operations carried out on behalf of the Morcambe Bay NHS Trust have left patients disappointed with the results. In this area of Lancashire and Cumbria the South African firm was contracted to perform eye surgery. Unfortunately three patients, suffering from endophthalmitis; an infection inside the eye one patient lost the eye completely. In the remaining cases the patients were left with worse vision than when they went in for treatment.

A spokesman for the Trust said that despite they're being 950 complaints from patients this was less than the national average. Also the cost of the operation was slightly lower than the NHS cost £750. Defending Netscape's work supporters pointed out that overall complication rates of 3.3% were better than the 8.6% of the national average.

Sat 27

“Ask Nelson Mandela if he thinks he is a great man. He thinks he's a silly old fool.” – Ex boxer Chris Eubank. – YEP page 4, C 5 -

Sun 28

As 2003 draws to an end the big news in Cape Town is the work of the Irish born, Cape Town resident Niall Mellon and his team of builders. In recent times, pre and post the Mandela 46664 Aids concert (qv), building work has been started in one of the poorest suburbs of the Town.

Hout Bay, with its million Rand homes adjacent to this poorest of poor areas, is the site of work carried out by the charity Habitat for Humanity. Dreamed up Mr Mellon, who lives in the affluent suburb Llandudno, over the hill from Hout Bay. With an initial E1m of his own money, and much more from those who have benefited from the Celtic Tigers back in the land of his birth, the property developer put his plans in motion.

Inviting 150 Irish builders and a few Scotsman to come to the area during the countries summer. Whilst here they were able to build 26 homes over a seven day period. With a target set in 1/03 of 450 homes – mainly constructed by local workers – a third of those planned were completed. It is planned to sell the homes Ismizamo Yethu, the worst area of housing in the Bay, via interest free mortgages.

There is still work proceeding, as a result of decisions made at the Global Invasive Species Invasive Programme (qv 1/11), which was also held in the city. Targeted now is the Australian Blackwood bush that was brought to the region in the 19th Century to bind

the sands of the Flats together and stop the sand drifting away. So serious is the effort to rid the area of this weed that to encourage its growth a 4 year jail sentence awaits.

Mon 28

Situated in what was the epicentre of the fighting between the MPLA and Unita, during the Angolan civil war, the town of Cazombo is returning to life. Little over 12 months ago the town, 200km from the DRC to the north and 150km to Zambia to the east, was deserted. Now however the population, of returning refugees can be numbered at 27, 000. Within the last 12 months the UNHCR have responsible for 19, 000 of these returnees.

In the town now is no less than 10 NGO's, who have housed themselves in the concrete bunkers from which the rebel Unita movement formulated their war strategy. One of the most important occupiers is the charity Mining Action group. They are here with the intention of clearing the estimated 14m landmines – from China, Italy, Germany, Rumania, Cuba and South Africa – that both sides had strewn about the area.

Despite living in a sea of mud and in thatched huts people seem happy. One concern though is a poor government infrastructure. The residents need more, and see their opportunities through education. Although the NGO's are bringing the school buildings back into service, it is the authorities n Luanda who must provide the salaries for the teaching staff. As the new term nears there are no teachers. Parents ask where has the money gone?